Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you in favor of holding a weeklong Liberation Day celebration instead of one month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Steve Jobs' vendetta against Google remains alive.

➤ PAGE 15

CAMPUS LIFE

More high school students are seeking online learning opportunities.

➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

Thousands of "tween" girls jam Mexico City's main plaza for a Justin Bieber concert.

➤ PAGE 19

Feds cite health concerns for its detainees at Saipan prison

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement has raised concerns about inadequate healthcare services for federal detainees at the $20.9-million adult prison in Susupe, prompting the transfer of some inmates to Guam.

- Some federal detainees moved to Guam
- Latest ICE-CNMI rate negotiated is $89 per inmate

This comes even as the CNMI and ICE inked their latest $53,400 agreement on the federal agency's use of the prison at least through June 30 but that could be extended through

See FEDS on Page 4

Still no CW for 71 pct. of petitioned alien workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

About 29 percent or 3,422 of the total 11,739 foreign workers petitioned for a Commonwealth-only worker status have been approved as of June 5, based on data provided yesterday by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Looked the other way, that means about 71 percent of CW petitions for foreign workers remain pending and that majority

See STILL on Page 4

TRADITIONAL DANCE NMC
Northern Marianas College students learn a traditional dance from Taiwan from students visiting from Pingtung University of Science and Technology. The visiting students took part in a brief cultural exchange with NMC students and officials, sharing some of their native costumes and dances from Taiwan. The students later toured the NMC campus before continuing their exploration of other parts of Saipan.

'Green card' bill for NMI's alien workers pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Worker groups are pushing for a separate bill in Congress that will grant permanent residency or "green card" to legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, and a draft of the bill will be presented by Florida-based human rights advocate Wendy Doromal to members of Congress.

Doromal's draft bill says those who have been legally in the CNMI for at least five years should be granted green card status.

The proposal seeks to cover some 16,000 legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

A former Rota teacher, Doromal said she's concentrating now on educating members of Congress so that they understand the history of the CNMI's foreign workers and the differences between the legal, long-term foreign workers of the CNMI and the illegal aliens in the U.S. mainland.

"I am seeking a member to submit legislation to amend P.L. 110-229 to provide status to include all legal, long-term (five years or more) CNMI foreign workers and the other categories

See GREEN CARD on Page 4

Vehicle sales up by whopping 117 percent in May. PAGE 3
Korean brass band to perform in concert for Manta Ray. PAGE 5

Local

Burglary case versus ex-Sports and Rec deputy chief dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has dismissed the criminal case against former Division of Sports and Recreation deputy director John B. Reyes Jr. in connection with the burglary at the Garapan Elementary School.

Inos dismissed the case without prejudice after the Office of the Attorney General and Reyes filed a joint motion to dismiss the complaint.

Dismissal without prejudice allows the OAG to re-file a new complaint on the same claim in the future.

The complaint had charged 34-year-old Reyes and Mario O. Sablan with burglary, theft, conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to commit theft, possession or removal of government property, and criminal mischief.

The case against Sablan, also a former staff at the Division of Sports and Recreation, is still pending in court.

In their motion to dismiss, assistant attorney general James B. McAllister and defense counsel Stephen C. Woodruff stated that after thorough investigation, the OAG has determined that the evidence against Reyes is not enough to support a conviction.

Specifically, McAllister and Woodruff said, the OAG has signed witness statements from seven persons, all attesting to and confirming Reyes' whereabouts on Sunday, March 25, 2012, from about 12pm to 7pm.

Burglars reportedly broke into several classrooms and storage rooms at GES on March 25, 2012, and stole over more $6,000 worth of equipment and other instructional materials.

McAllister and Woodruff said the CNMI government met or spoke with each of these seven individuals and each has confirmed the written statements and sufficiently corroborated the statements of each other.

In addition, the eyewitness in the case failed to pick Reyes out of a photo line-up, they said.

On April 3, 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo allowed Reyes to post $1,000 cash and $4,000 unsecured or appearance bond.

Govendo allowed Sablan to post $625 cash and $4,375 in unsecured or appearance bond.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that a security guard had spotted Reyes and Sablan on March 25 at 5pm, both standing behind one of the Head Start classrooms.

Norita said the guard noticed Reyes holding two piano keyboards, while Sablan was carrying a big rainbow color bag.

The guard ran to the western side of the gate to exit and go after Reyes and Sablan but the two were no longer there when he got to the place.

The guard later discovered that two vacant homes being used to store school equipments had also been burglarized.

Reyes and Sablan both pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rotary nixes hosting games at LibDay fest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday agreed to decline the invitation to organize the gambling activities at the 2012 Liberation Day festivities.

About 30 Rotarians agreed with the decision, citing many reasons, including Rotary's own statutes and its upcoming fundraising event, the Las Vegas Night.

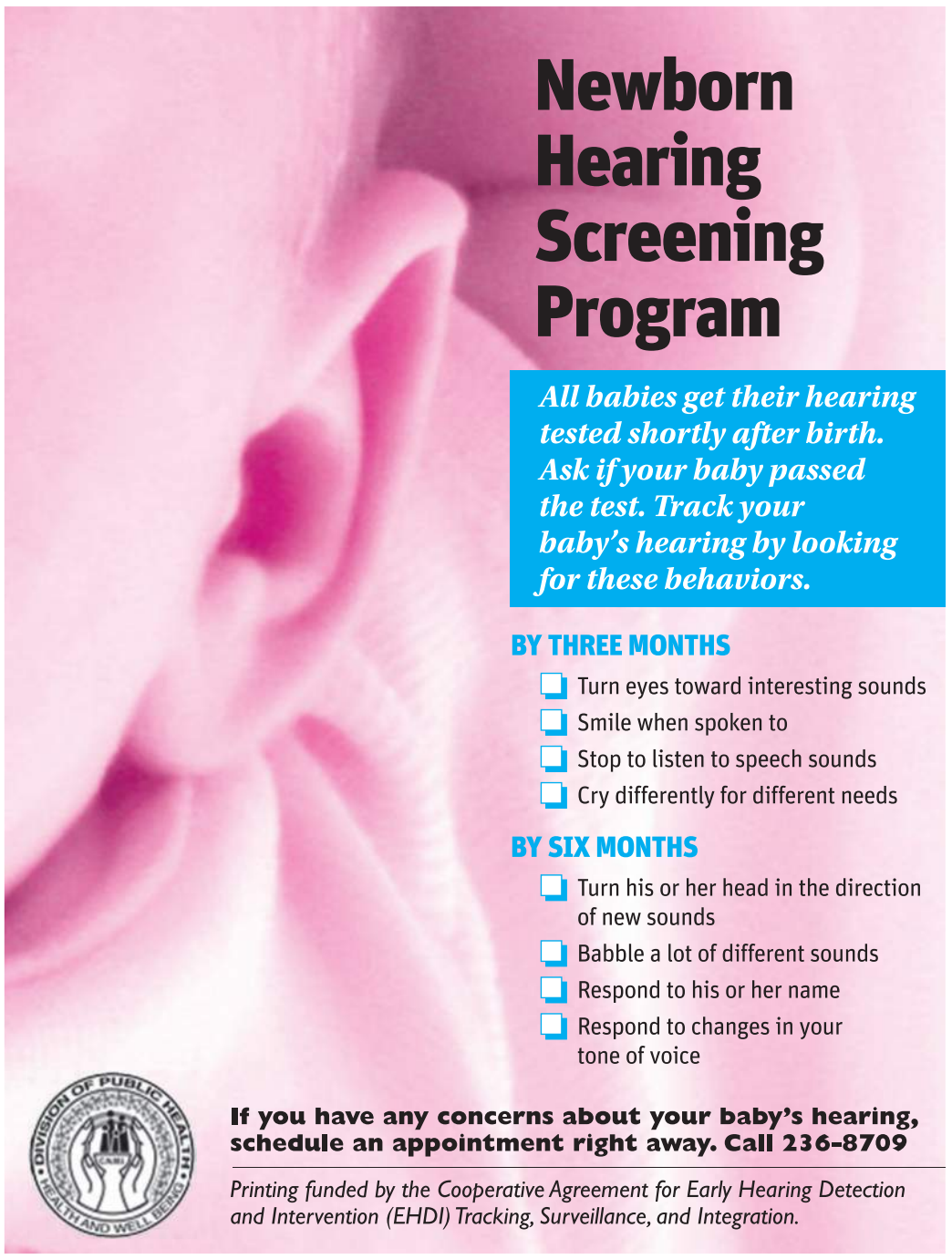
Club Service director Jay Santos had been contacted by the Lt. Governor's Office, requesting the Rotary to organize the gambling activities for this year's Liberation Day celebration, which starts on June 28 and concludes on July 4.

"We will organize all the gambling games and split the proceeds with the Mayor's Office," Santos told fellow Rotarians.

Santos noted that the request sought was for expertise and equipment for gambling activities such as roulette and blackjack and not for financial commitment.

Rotarians David Igitol and David Sablan both pointed out that Rotary bylaws do not allow the organization to raise funds and split proceeds with government or private entities. Rotarian Alex Sablan also noted that Rotary's exemption only allows the group to conduct one fundraising event per quarter.

Foundation Service director Kim Forrester noted that the request was made at a time when Rotary is busy preparing for its largest annual fundraiser, Las Vegas Night, slated for July 14 at the Saipan World Resort.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May vehicle sales up by 117 pct

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Vehicle sales went up by a whopping 117 percent in May compared to the same month last year, but that's mostly because of the severe impact of the March 2011 Japan quake on the succeeding months' automotive sales.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association said yesterday it sold 50 new cars, vans, trucks, and sports utility vehicles in May, compared to only 23 during the same month last year.

CADA's year-to-date sales are also promising, with a 35-percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Douglas Brennan, CADA secretary, said yesterday that dealer inventory levels have recovered from the severe supply problems they had last year due to the devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters that hit Japan.

"On a year to year comparative basis, it makes sense the market appears to be growing. Reality is the market has been fairly even since 2007, averaging 500 to 600 vehicles per year. We are hoping to end the year in that same range," Brennan told Saipan Tribune.

Microl Corp. sold 25 new vehicles, up 150 percent from only 10 last year. This brings its year-to-date sales to 133, an increase of 62 percent from last year. Microl is the authorized dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet.

Triple "J" Motors's May sales increased by 50 percent, from 10 last year to 15 this year. Its year-to-date sales reached 36 percent. Triple "J" Motors is the distributor of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda.

Joeten Motors saw a sharp sales increase of 233 percent, from three last year to 10 this year. The local dealer of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia, Joeten Motors posted a year-to-date sales increase of 1.52 percent.

Of the 50 new vehicles sold in May, 24 were cars, 12 were SUVs, 10 were trucks, and four were vans.

Among cars, Hyundai Elantra was the most sought after in May with five units sold. This was followed by Toyota Corolla with four units sold, and Hyundai Accent and Mazda3 with three units each sold. Other cars sold were two each of Kia Forte and Toyota Yaris, and one each of Ford Taurus, Honda Civic, Kia Soul, Toyota Camry and Toyota Prius.

Toyota RAV4 dominated the SUV sales with four units sold in May. The other SUVs sold last month were two each of Toyota 4 Runner and Toyota Highlander, and one each of Honda CR-V, Hyundai Tucson, Hyundai Veracruz and Nissan Rogue.

Of the 10 trucks sold in May, seven were Toyota Tacoma and three were Ford Ranger.

The four vans sold last month included two each of Mazda5 and Toyota Sienna.

CADA also sold 25 used vehicles in May, bringing to 106 the total sold during the first five months of the year.

Vehicle dealers have been using marketing promotions to help boost sales amid a slow economy. Microl, for example, will be launching the 2013 Corolla in early August and conduct a three-month long joint promotion with IP&E (Shell) and Elegant Reflections (MOC-Guam) for service customers who buy a Gold Package Vehicle Service. Microl also continues its AC Delco Battery recycling program, wherein it buys old, used automobile batteries for $5 each provided they are not damaged or leaking.

"It is our way of keeping the CNMI environmentally safe and free of lead-acid contamination," added Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp. and president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Matson lowers fuel surcharge

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Matson Navigation Co. announced Monday that it will lower its fuel related surcharge by 3.5 percentage points for its services in the CNMI, Guam, Micronesia, and Hawaii following the recent cuts in bunker fuel prices.

Effective Sunday, June 17, fuel related surcharge for Matson's Guam/CNMI and Micronesia services will drop from 42 to 38.5 percent while the Hawaii service will dip from 45.5 to 42 percent.

Matson's last adjustment to its Hawaii service fuel surcharge was an increase of 5 percent last Feb. 26.

Dave Hoppes, senior vice president for ocean services, said that Matson is pleased with the downward adjustment, which would mean a reduction in shipping costs of about $80 to $140 per container for most customers.

"Escalating energy costs have impacted all businesses as well as consumers, this year, with transportation companies especially hard hit. Fortunately, bunker fuel prices have moderated recently, allowing us to lower our fuel surcharge," Hoppes said in a statement.

Hoppes noted that while Matson gives a 30-day notice for upward rate adjustments, it passes on downward adjustments to customers "as soon as possible."

"We will continue to monitor fuel costs and adjust the surcharge accordingly," added Hoppes.

Pump prices on Saipan have dropped by 40 cents since May 8, with the recent 20-cent price cut taking effect just last June 6.

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DPS staff files sex harassment suit vs police director

»Ex-cop also files complaint against acting DPS commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A staff at the Department of Public Safety has filed a sexual harassment complaint against DPS director Aniceto T. Ogumoro.

This developed as Christopher Leon Guerrero also filed a police complaint against acting DPS commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro for allegedly harassing him.

Aniceto and Ambrosio are brothers.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed yesterday to contact the Ogumoros for comments. Police spokesman Jason Tarkong, however, stated that Ambrosio Ogumoro has no official comment until after he has spoken with the Office of the Attorney General.

Tarkong said that DPS Internal Affairs is looking into the matter.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Rose Ann C. Dela Cruz, an administrative officer 1 at DPS, filed the sexual harassment complaint against Aniceto Ogumoro last Thursday before the Office of Personnel Management and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

According to the complaint, Aniceto Ogumoro told Dela Cruz in Chamorro that he wanted to kiss her and that the police director also squeezed her hand tightly.

"I am currently experiencing a high amount of stress, anxiety/panic attacks anticipating going to work. I even had to leave work after the incident took place and am still feeling uneasy to go back to work because not only have I been emotionally disturbed by this event, but I am unable to sleep properly and currently taking antidepressants," said Dela Cruz in her complaint.

Dela Cruz stated that the incident happened on June 5, 2012, when Aniceto Ogumoro came behind her and stated in Chamorro, "Ai adai, sa chico," which in English means "I want to kiss you."

Dela Cruz said she felt uncomfortable so she told him to stop and that he just laughed.

Aniceto Ogumoro also allegedly reached for her hand and squeezed it tightly. Dela Cruz said she told Aniceto Ogumoro to stop and that was when a DPS staff walked in.

Dela Cruz said she told her husband about the incident when she got home for lunch.

With respect to the complaint against Ambrosio Ogumoro, Leon Guerrero alleged that on Monday afternoon he tried to serve the acting commissioner with a grievance in his office.

The grievance paper is against DPS and was filed before OPM against the department.

Ambrosio Ogumoro allegedly got mad and threw the paper back at Leon Guerrero.

Leon Guerrero, who is now working as a private detective, decided to file charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

'MPLT will release $7M once all conditions are satisfied'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust described yesterday as welcome news the signing into law of House Bill 17-278, which will provide the public hospital additional funding for its operation in the form of a loan.

However, MPLT chair Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that these monies will only be made available once all conditions and requirements are met and satisfied by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the direct recipient of the funds.

"It's good thing the governor signed that into law so we can move ahead. That money is available for such purpose, but we want to make sure that MPLT interest is protected so there are conditions and specific provisions that must be met [by the corporation]. The funds will be made available once all these conditions are satisfied by CHC," he told Saipan Tribune yesterday, adding that MPLT may ask for more requirements from CHC on the new loan.

H.B. 17-278, now Public Law 17-76, was signed Friday by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to provide the public hospital an additional $7 million line of credit from MPLT as part of the $11.58 million originally contemplated for the corporation.

MPLT has already loaned out $4.58 million to the corporation as a revolving credit line. Of the amount, $1.58 million was set aside for the health electronic record system project while $3 million was used for the immediate needs of the Commonwealth Health Center, including payroll and medical supplies.

Deleon Guerrero called a special meeting yesterday solely to discuss the details of the new law with the agency's consultant and legal counsel. When asked how soon the funds could be released to the corporation, Deleon Guerrero could not immediately give a timeline, citing provisions, conditions, and other requirements that the corporation must satisfy.

Officials and representatives of both MPLT and the corporation are scheduled to privately meet Friday on the same issue.

On June 4, Deleon Guerrero expressed concerns about what's happening at CHC, believing this might affect the existing and future loan agreement with the hospital.

"This gives MPLT greater concerns as to CHC's viability and its operation as a 'going concern.' Thus, this current environment has diminished the relevance of the documentation and business plan that MPLT previously needed for its due diligence process," stated Deleon Guerrero in his June 4th letter to corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta.

FEDS

From Page 1

May 2013.

ICE and the CNMI, through the Department of Corrections and the Office of the Attorney General, have been negotiating ICE's use of the Susupe prison to house federal detainees.

ICE representatives recently visited the Susupe prison complex.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham said that "overall, the operations of the detention facility are found to be appropriate. However, certain issues were identified regarding healthcare for detainees."

"These are now subject of review so that the concerns of ICE are addressed," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune*.

Buckingham said the CNMI anticipates a follow-up visit by ICE representatives in the future "to verify that the issues have been addressed."

"In the meantime, there has been a reduction of ICE detainees," he said.

It's not immediately known how many federal detainees have been moved or will be moved from the Susupe prison complex to Guam, as a result of ICE's findings.

The prison is run by the CNMI Department of Corrections.

ICE has acknowledged receipt but has yet to respond to media inquiries as of yesterday.

Commonwealth Healthcare Center chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta separately confirmed ICE's concerns during a recent report to the CHC board of trustees, referring to an email from Timothy S. Aitken, field officer director for ICE from the San Francisco Removal Operations, "regarding federal detainees at the DOC facility and issues to be met."

"The areas that concerned CHCC are: dental services, improved medical records organization, medical consent forms, medical staffing, diabetic supplies, mental health assessment, etc." Babauta said.

Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, Buckingham, and assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu met with Babauta on May 29 on the issue. Babauta said they agreed to set everything up in six weeks, and the next meeting is on July 24. Mafnas did not return calls for comment.

Buckingham said the CNMI and ICE "are routinely exchanging information and collaboratively working to resolve the identified issues."

"The goal of both the Commonwealth and ICE is to continue to have a working partnership and to continue to use the Department of Corrections facility to house administrative (ICE) detainees," he said.

$89 bed rate

The CNMI and ICE have an existing agreement on ICE's use of the Susupe prison complex for its federal detainees.

The latest task order, dated May 9, 2012, calls for "the detention and care of aliens housed at the Saipan Department of Corrections at a rate of $89 per bed day."

This task order amounts to $53,400, covering 30 days for 20 beds per day at a rate of $89.

It is estimated that the funds obligated will cover the period through June 30, 2012.

"If fully funded, the performance period will be June 1, 2012, through May 31, 2013, and the annual estimated amount will be: 365 days x 20 per day x $89 = $649,700," the five-page task order reads.

A May 2010 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office said the CNMI and DHS must work together so that DHS can implement federal border control and immigration in the CNMI. GAO, the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, recommended that the DHS secretary work with the head of ICE to conclude negotiations with the CNMI government regarding access to detention space.

As a result, ICE has transferred three of 30 aliens to prisons in Guam and Honolulu. These three are convicted criminals under CNMI or U.S. law, GAO had said in May 2010.

The CNMI also has an existing agreement with the U.S. Marshal Service for the latter's use of the Susupe prison complex.

The CNMI built the $20.9-million prison complex in Susupe under a consent decree signed with the U.S. Department of Justice after DOJ saw the deplorable conditions of the old prison.

Construction began in 2002. The initial cost was only about $17 million but due to change orders, as well as procurement protests and counter protests, the project cost ballooned to $20.9 million. It opened only in February 2008.

GREEN CARD

From Page 1

of CNMI legal aliens. I have several meetings scheduled and intend to work this summer on an education campaign," Doromal told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said two Republican members from her State of Florida recently showed interest in the immigration issue.

"Whether their interest is motivated by gathering Hispanic votes or is a sincere effort to institute reform is unclear, but now is the time to educate them on the plight of the aliens in the CNMI and the fact that they are 'legal' and need status now. I will be reaching out to all members of both parties to support permanent residency status for the legal, long-term aliens of the CNMI through a bill or by adding a new CNMI Foreign Worker Adjustment group to the EB-4 'Certain Special Immigrants' category of the INA," Doromal added.

This group of long-term legal aliens that Doromal and workers group is pushing for is in addition to those that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) has been trying to help through his H.R. 1466.

The fourth group intended to benefit from Sablan's HR 1466 may be removed, and this group includes mostly foreign parents of minor U.S. citizens, as part of compromise mostly with Republican members.

HR 1466 is so far the only immigration bill to move in the 112th Congress, but the fourth group has proven to be a hard sell.

The three other groups covered in HR 1466 are CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses, parents or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said their group has remained consistent with its goal of having "improved status for all."

He reiterated that legal alien workers in the CNMI should be treated differently from illegal aliens in the U.S.

Boni Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, is also hoping that a separate bill be introduced in Congress that will basically push for the recommendations submitted by the U.S. Department of the Interior to Congress in 2010.

But the Fitial administration said there is already a procedure to attain U.S. citizenship and/or residency.

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., also hopes that if the fourth group of people will be removed from the bill, Sablan should push for the Interior recommendations in Congress.

But Reyes acknowledges that Congress may not act immediately on such improved status bill since this is an election year.

STILL

From Page 1

of the foreign workforce in the CNMI remain uncertain about their status.

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts said a total of 2,166 I-129CW petitions were approved, consisting of 3,422 beneficiaries.

These were among the 5,704 I-129 CW petitions data entered from Oct. 7 through June 5.

A total of 11,739 CW-1 workers are sponsored in these petitions, filed by some 1,785 employers.

These figures include 767 workers on Tinian, 371 on Rota and the rest, on Saipan.

Sebrechts also said 53 petitions were denied consisting of 60 beneficiaries.

"Denials are still either withdrawals of the application or not meeting the eligibility requirements for employer or worker," Sebrechts said.

USCIS has also issued requests for evidence for a variety of reasons.

Sebrechts said some petitioners did not include documentation showing that they are doing business, that they have considered all available U.S. workers for the job position and/or that they are offering jobs consistent with the nature of their business.

"USCIS' California Service Center has also had to ask for evidence of the beneficiary's lawful presence in the CNMI," she added.

Employers and foreign workers in the CNMI have been expressing concerns about the prolonged processing time for CW petitions, considering that USCIS earlier set a self-imposed deadline of Jan. 31 to complete the reviews.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that at this moment, the U.S. Government Accountability Office is preparing a report to Congress measuring the level and extent of uncertainty for existing and potential investment as USCIS and U.S. Labor have not indicated whether the transition period for CW-1 workers will be extended beyond 2014.

"How can we even know how uncertain we are when we don't even know when and how many of those petitions will be approved?" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked whether the Chamber believes that the 11,739 petitioned workers is pretty much the number of skilled foreign workers that the CNMI still needs by and beyond 2014, Pierce said, "Not necessarily."

"Who knows what our condition will be in 2014? If our economy continues to tank, we'd obviously need less. I certainly hope that's not the case. Frankly, like GAO asking how uncertain we are about our foreign national workers being 'zeroed out' in 2014, is like asking a guy who's just been shot through both legs (wage and immigration authority) how he feels about it all," Pierce added.

The CNMI's immigration system is now under federal control pursuant to U.S. Public Law 11-229.

Hwasun Brass Band to perform in fundraising concert for Manta Ray

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For the first time ever, a group of young Korean musicians is set to perform on Saipan for a fundraising concert that will benefit the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band.

Sixty members of the Hwasun Elementary School Brass Band are slated to arrive on Saturday, June 16, accompanied by conductor Seo Kwang Yul and school principal Choi Yun Chang, along with 13 parents.

Choi

Seo

The band, composed of 5th and 6th graders, will serve as the main act for the Saipan Music Festival Concert Fundraiser on June 18, Monday, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

Jun Ho Park of JP Entertainment, which is organizing the concert, said yesterday that the Hwasun Brass Band will perform *Arirang* arranged by Lee Moon-Seok, *African Symphony*, and *Symphony No. 9 in E minor, op. 95,* among other musical pieces.

Tickets to the concert cost $20 each for adults and $15 each for students and are available at Saipan Southern High School, Korean Church or the Korean Community office in San Antonio.

Park noted that Monday's concert is part of the annual Korean Culture Festival, which coincides with the Liberation festivities.

Concert proceeds, Park said, will be donated to the Manta Ray Band, which is raising funds for its scheduled performance at the 2012 Olympic Games in London next month. The band needs to raise $250,000 for the trip and is still short by about $90,000.

"I want to help the Manta Ray Band so they can make it to their London trip," Park told *Saipan Tribune*. "We hope to sell more tickets so we can meet our goal to raise $9,000 for them."

At the concert, the Hwasun Brass Band will perform alongside the Manta Ray Band and the Saipan Pacific Winds Band.

Community service

The Hwasun Brass Band, which hails from a city in Jeollanam-do, will also take part in community service activities during their stay.

On June 17, the group will go to Managaha for a beach cleanup. Two days later, on June 19, they will visit the Aging Center to socialize with the island's elderly.

"We are also inviting the *man'amko* to watch the concert for free," added Park.

He urged the community to support the concert, which is sponsored by Asiana Airlines, Mayor's Office, the Korean newspaper *Saipan Times*, and Tasi Tours.

"This will be the first time that the Manta Ray and the Saipan Pacific Winds bands will perform together with the Hwasun Brass Band from Korea in a concert. And since it's a fundraising concert for the Manta Ray Band, we are asking for support from the entire community to watch and enjoy the show," he said.

For more information, call 287-0778.

The Hwasun Elementary School Brass Band is slated to arrive on Saturday, June 16, accompanied by conductor Seo Kwang Yul and school principal Choi Yun Chang, along with 13 parents.

CHC to Senate: Rota dialysis unit 'absolutely problematic'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) that the Rota dialysis unit is "absolutely problematic" and needs more improvements before it can be used to provide hemodialysis services. CHC said that Medicare will hesitate to approve the Rota facility in its present condition.

Manglona has been following up on the status of the Rota Health Center's dialysis unit for years.

"It's frustrating that after all these years, the facility has yet to be renovated so that it can be used to treat Rota patients. Nonetheless, I am thankful for the recent visit of a nephrologist to Rota to do an assessment," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Dr. Sherleen Osman, in-house nephrologist at CHC, went to Rota in May to assess the existing facility at the center.

Osman's three-page report to Babauta, attached to the letter sent to Manglona, pointed 12 problems with Rota's dialysis unit.

"I visited the Rota CHC facility…as per your request, and found it to be absolutely problematic. Medicare will hesitate to approve it in its present condition unless a significant amount of renovation work is done to this facility under supervision of someone who really knows what is required in a dialysis unit," Osman said.

Babauta told Manglona that the problems identified include the need for major renovations; basic building fire and safety standards; accessibility; cross contamination; flawed infection control rooms; the reverse osmosis system needs to be inspected; and staffing will require a nephrologist, two registered nurses, two technicians, a water person, a social worker and a dietician.

Osman's report did not address cost issue, which will require a separate report, Babauta said.

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22 students graduate from SSHS nursing aid program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School principal Jesse Tudela and vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan pose with the 22 new nursing aids after a pinning and path of light ceremony held at Pacific Islands Club. The nursing assistant program was initiated by SSHS in conjunction with the Public Health Department and Public School System in 2009 to develop local capacity for healthcare providers.

The two-year nursing assistantship program at Saipan Southern High School graduated 22 nursing aids this school year.

SSHS principal Jesse Tudela said this is the school's third batch of nursing aids that completed the training.

In a pinning and path of light ceremony held recently at Pacific Islands Club, program officials bestowed the highest recognition on Chelsea Borja, who emerged as the batch's most outstanding graduate. The second honor award went to Hannah Shai.

Four other graduates received special awards: Welington David for excellence in holistic care; Lallane Guiao for excellence in professionalism; Ashley Alejo for excellence in communication; and Rose Ann McVicar for excellence in caring.

Tudela hopes that these new nursing aids will continue working toward their ultimate goal of becoming professional nurses.

"I hope they will continue to persevere and pursue their education of one day becoming a registered nurse, then one day come back to the CNMI to help [the Commonwealth Health Center]. Their success is the CNMI's success... We need to continue to invest in our youth and future generation. I am very proud of them for choosing nursing because they are needed very much. I wish them all the luck and to come back soon," he said.

The new nursing assistants include Sarah Aldan, Ashley Alejo, Ma. Louise Atrero, Chelsea Borja, Shelane Borja, Zyerlishida Camacho, Nikissa Castro, Desiree Cepeda, Teri-sue Corpuz, Welington David, Bless Ducusin, Laura Gilnifrad, Lallane Guiao, John Lamberto, Allison Madamba, Rose McVicar, Loveme Phillip, Jenny Sanchez, Hannah Shai, Michelle Takai, Dominique Villagomez, and Willie Wagan.

The pinning ceremony was keynoted by Northern Marianas College Nursing Club president Hilma Castro and was also addressed by program instructor Douglas Miller, a registered nurse.

SSHS started the program in 2009 in collaboration with the then Department of Public Health. For a student to finish the whole process, they have to complete the required clinical and lecture hours in their 11th grade. Each day, students take almost two hours of class instruction and over two hours of clinical sessions at the hospital. The nursing assistantship program is offered as a fifth period at the school.

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Head Start Policy Council
AGENDA

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular meeting on Friday, June 15, 2012 at 1:00 p.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
   a. April 12, 2012

II. Public Comments

III. Communications
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Finance Director
4. Center Representatives

V. Old Business
1. FY 2013 Triennial Review (Monitoring Protocol)
2. Staff Qualification Parent Activity Funds Updates (Center Completion)
3. SY 2012-2013 Staff Pattern
4. Dental Service Contract (RFP PSS 12-018)
5. Annual HI-OP Training (June 25-29, 2012)

VI. New Business
1. SY 2011-2012 Head Start Annual Report
2. SY 2011-2012 Program Information (PIR) DUE July 20, 2012 on Head Start Enterprise System.
3. Spring 2012 Child Outcomes Report Data
4. SY 2012-2013 Program Calendar

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Annie Santos at (670) 664-3751/3761 or email address at ana.santos@cnmipss.org; several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinson F. Sablan
Chairperson

Draft NMC comprehensive self-evaluation report nearly ready

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is gearing up for the full completion of its comprehensive self-evaluation report and is targeting to release it by end of this month in time for its submission in early August.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart and accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that NMC aims to submit the final report by mid-August, two months prior to a scheduled visit by a team from the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

Hart said the commission is now putting together the team that will visit NMC and that a chairperson has been identified to lead the group.

Usually, Hart said, the team is composed of about 10 members, including a representative from the senior accreditation body, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, who will focus on the college's four-year degree offerings.

Described as part of a normal accreditation process, NMC has to undergo a full self-evaluation every six years as required by the accrediting commission.

» Accreditation team sets four-day visit

As of yesterday, Hart said that the college is at 90 percent in terms of completing the draft report, and it still has to go through extensive review by all college governance for their inputs. The College Accreditation Reaffirmation Team, or ART, and accreditation teams, she added, continue to meet weekly as part of that preparation.

After submitting the report in August, NMC expects a four-day visit of commissioner members on Oct. 20 to 24. The decision on NMC's accreditation will be known after the January 2013 assembly of the commissioners.

Hart and Deleon Guerrero said that NMC is working "very aggressively" in preparing the report and for the team visit. Even members of the Board of Regents, they said, are undergoing trainings and workshops as part of commission requirements.

"Our goal as an institution is to address every standard and if we fall short in any of the standard, part of our responsibility as a college is to recognize that we have fallen short and develop a plan on how we're going to address it. I think that's really a key," Hart said.

The two declined to talk about the specifics of the report, citing confidentiality rules.

The fate of NMC's accreditation after January will be one of four possible options: full affirmation, probation, show cause, or revocation.

Both Hart and Deleon Guerrero are optimistic of a favorable decision.

The two also clarified how the two-year commission rule works to allay fears that NMC will have no chance to rectify any deficiencies that might be cited in any future commission findings.

"If you look at recent years, we effectively responded to many of the deficiencies [based on the commission decisions that came out]. Now, if they come up again after the commission said that we met these recommendations, then the two-year rule is reset. In other words, if a deficiency comes out and was not brought up in the past two years, the two-year clock is reset," explained Deleon Guerrero.

NMC was placed on continued show-cause status after the commission determined that it failed to rectify all previous concerns raised. In its February decision, the commission identified both old and new "concerns" at the college.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS

FY 2012-2016 Goals

SELF ADVOCACY:

GOAL 1
Form additional self advocacy groups (in CNMI).

GOAL 2
Develop a summer Camp for self advocates: one on each of the three islands of CNMI.

GOAL 3
Make CNMI more ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) friendly.

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI CDD) is seeking public comments on its amendment to FY 2012-2016 State Plan. The CNMI CDD's mission focuses on advocacy for inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. This helps promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs. The Council receives funding to carry out its mission from the Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Developmental Disabilities under the provisions of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106-402). The purpose of the Act is to make sure people with developmental disabilities and their families take part in the design of and have access to needed community services, supports and other forms of assistance.

Your comments are important to the work of the Council. Please submit your commits by **July 23, 2012** using one of the following options: Visit, mail, fax, call our office or email comments to:

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 502565, Building #1312 Anatahan Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP96950
Phone: (670) 664-7000/1
Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: eada.cnmicdd@gmail.com

Schedule of Public Hearings

TINIAN	ROTA	SAIPAN
June 14, 2012, Thursday	June 19, 2012 Tuesday	June 22, 2012 Friday
WHERE: Tinian NMC Campus	WHERE: Rota NMC Campus	WHERE: Multi-Purpose Building
TIME: 5:30pm to 6:30pm	TIME: 5:30pm to 6:30pm	TIME: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative format is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

CNMI DD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 502565
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Statewide Independent Living Council

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TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Third General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at the Charley's Cabaret, PIC from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of March 08, 2012 Minutes
IV. Reports
- OVR Director
- SILC Chairman
- CIL Director

V. Old Business
- Recommendations of 2012 April Public Forums
- Review membership composition
- SILC Resource Plan

VI. New Business
- Trainings and other developments on independent living activities
- SILC Congress updates and State Plans
- Inter-Agency Presentation

VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW12-IFB-007

SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed Bids for **Security Services** for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF) on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after June 06, 2012 at the Office of the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Lower Base, Saipan.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with § **70-30.3-205** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 09:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on June 25, 2012. The prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the MSWF facility. Questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time July 02, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-007."** For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Bid**. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 16, 2012, and must be received no later July 26, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., local time, July 30, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, on July 16, 2012.

The successful bidder to this IFB will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § **70-30.3-245** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this IFB shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the bidder awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfections in any bids in the best interest of the Government. All bids shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

United donates plane tickets to NMC Foundation golf tournament

In addition to considerable cash and other prizes, first place winners of the upcoming golf tournament hosted by the NMC Foundation will also win round-trip airfare tickets between Guam and Micronesia, Hong Kong, Manila, or Australia.

The plane tickets have been donated by United Airlines in support of the 10th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament, which will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2012. The tournament aims to raise critical funds for the Northern Marianas College, the lone post-secondary, WASC-accredited institution in the CNMI.

"United has always been a strong supporter of expanding higher education opportunities for students in the CNMI and throughout the Pacific region," said Paula Monk, senior sales manager for Guam and Micronesia.

"We are proud to support the Foundation's effort to ensure that CNMI students have access to enhanced instructional programs and service," she added.

"We are extremely grateful for United Airlines' contribution to the tournament and its continued commitment to the College," said Ivan Quichocho, NMC Foundation president.

The 10th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament is set to be a one-day event to take place at the West Course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Show time is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am sharp.

"I encourage all golfers to come out on Saturday to play for a very worthy cause," added Quichocho. "We're targeting 120 golfers, which will make for a great field in one of the finest tournaments of the season."

In addition to the roundtrip tickets, there are cash prizes for the top winners of the six flights: $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. There are also significant hole-in-one prizes, including a 2012 Hyundai Accent.

To register to play, stop by Triple J Motors , the Laolao Bay Golf Course, or the NMC Cashier's Office to complete a registration form and pay the $95 entrance fee. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu.

The NMC Foundation is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals. For more information about the tournament, contact NMC at 234-5498 Ext. 1050 or 1051**.** ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 13, 2000

PSS to draw up a local version of SAT9

The Public School System has disclosed plans to create a CNMI-wide annual assessment patterned after the nationwide Stanford Achievement Test-9th Edition aimed at putting tabs on the average norm of students based on local standards. Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos yesterday said one of PSS' main thrusts this academic year is to look at the local validity and reliability of standards by setting benchmarks across all grade levels. SAT9, a nationally-normed evaluation for students, does not really speak of the "real picture" in terms of standards in areas outside the U.S. mainland, according to the commissioner.

House OKs $42K for OES

Close to $42,000 were appropriated yesterday by the House of Representatives for the construction of an outdoor stage at the Oleai Elementary School. The money will come from reprogramming of fund balance left from the construction of Chalan Kiya waterline and the design and construction of Oleai waterline replacement. About $40,500 in surplus funds remains in the Chalan Kiya project, while $1,445 from the Oleai project. The public works secretary is given the expenditure authority under the bill passed by the lower house during the special session.

June 13, 2001

NMI businesses support Motheread Program

Standing pat on its belief that all children have a right to read, the Bank of Hawaii recently extended help to the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities to support the Council's Motheread Literacy Program. Motheread, a nationally-acclaimed reading program based in North Carolina, focuses on helping parents to become reading role models for their children. Parents meet regularly, two or three times a month, with volunteers who are trained in the Motheread curriculum. The small classes read and discuss a selected list of children's books. Themes such as sibling rivalry, honesty, courage, the right to be different and host of issues related to family and social values are explored through stories that teach real life lessons.

Deal reached on three-year stay limit law

The stay limit law will be suspended until March 2004 to allow a special task force to study possible effects of the impending exodus of more than 30,000 nonresident workers in the CNMI. House Floor Leader Oscar Babauta yesterday disclosed a compromise agreement has been reached between the House and the Senate to create a task force that will look into the pros and cons of the islands' guest workers' mass departure. Babauta said the compromise agreement also gives the task force 12 months to come up with objective findings and recommendations that are acceptable to both the government and the business community in terms of preventing a possible economic disaster.

June 13, 2002

Disallowed costs in sewer project reach $78K

An Office of the Public Auditor review of the Saipan Beach Road sewer system project has determined disallowed costs amounting to $78,779.93, which the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has to reimburse to the federal government. In a report it released yesterday, the OPA said that, of the $253,728 in total payments that the project's contractor received, $78,779.93 are disallowed costs that represent missing equipment, reimbursements for purchases and other expenditures not specifically authorized in the contract, and additional work on the project that were never approved. The project's A&E contractor was the Juan C. Tenorio & Associates (JCTA) and the project was funded by the Office of the Insular Affairs, which had requested the OPA review.

Money out of idle properties

The CNMI government may be able to make money out of unused possessions that currently sit idle in various public offices. A proposed measure seeking the disposal of unnecessary government properties through a state-sponsored auction hurdled the Senate last week. The proposed measure offers a light in the horizon for the cash-strapped government, which now explores other funding source amid the slowdown in economic activities. Senator Diego M. Songao, proponent of Senate Bill 13-57, said the Commonwealth may generate additional money from the large amount of surplus property belonging to and no longer needed by the government.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- **U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien**
- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

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US nuns have plenty of big brothers and sisters

By LINDA P. CAMPBELL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

It doesn't take a radical feminist insubordinate to recognize the chutzpah involved in a bunch of power-hungry old guys who live in a dysfunctional but opulent secret enclave in Rome stomping on thousands of American women who truly live the life of the Gospel.

Given the Vatican's myopic view of moral leadership—and the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy's sometimes conspicuous failure to exercise it—I find it astounding that officials whose own house is in disarray should be telling U.S. nuns that they're deviating from the holiness rules.

Apparently many other American Catholics feel the same way, marching, holding vigils, circulating petitions and launching Facebook pages to show the enforcers, from Pope Benedict XVI on down, that they won't let their sisters be bullied.

This all started after the Vatican issued a report in April giving a loud smack on the knuckles to the umbrella group that represents more than two-thirds of U.S. nuns. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious was scolded for having speakers at their gatherings whose unorthodox views on spirituality go far off track from church teachings; for focusing on social justice instead of stepping loudly into public debate about abortion and homosexuality; and essentially for not being sufficiently subservient to the U.S. bishops and their stands on volatile political issues.

An American archbishop was designated to oversee "reform" of the nuns' organization. Representatives of the organization are supposed to travel to Rome soon to convey their objections in person.

The Leadership Conference last week called the Vatican's accusations "the result of a flawed process that lacked transparency" and said the report has "caused scandal and pain throughout the church community."

Here's what riles some of us ordinary Catholics, not to mention those of other beliefs: We hear of wayward priests and bishops, who are supposed to be celibate, having affairs and fathering children, sullying the daily labors of many fine and earnest religious men and women. Yet, the message the Vatican really wants to emphasize is that devoting yourself to good works isn't enough if you aren't leading the charge against insurance subsidies for contraception or gay unions.

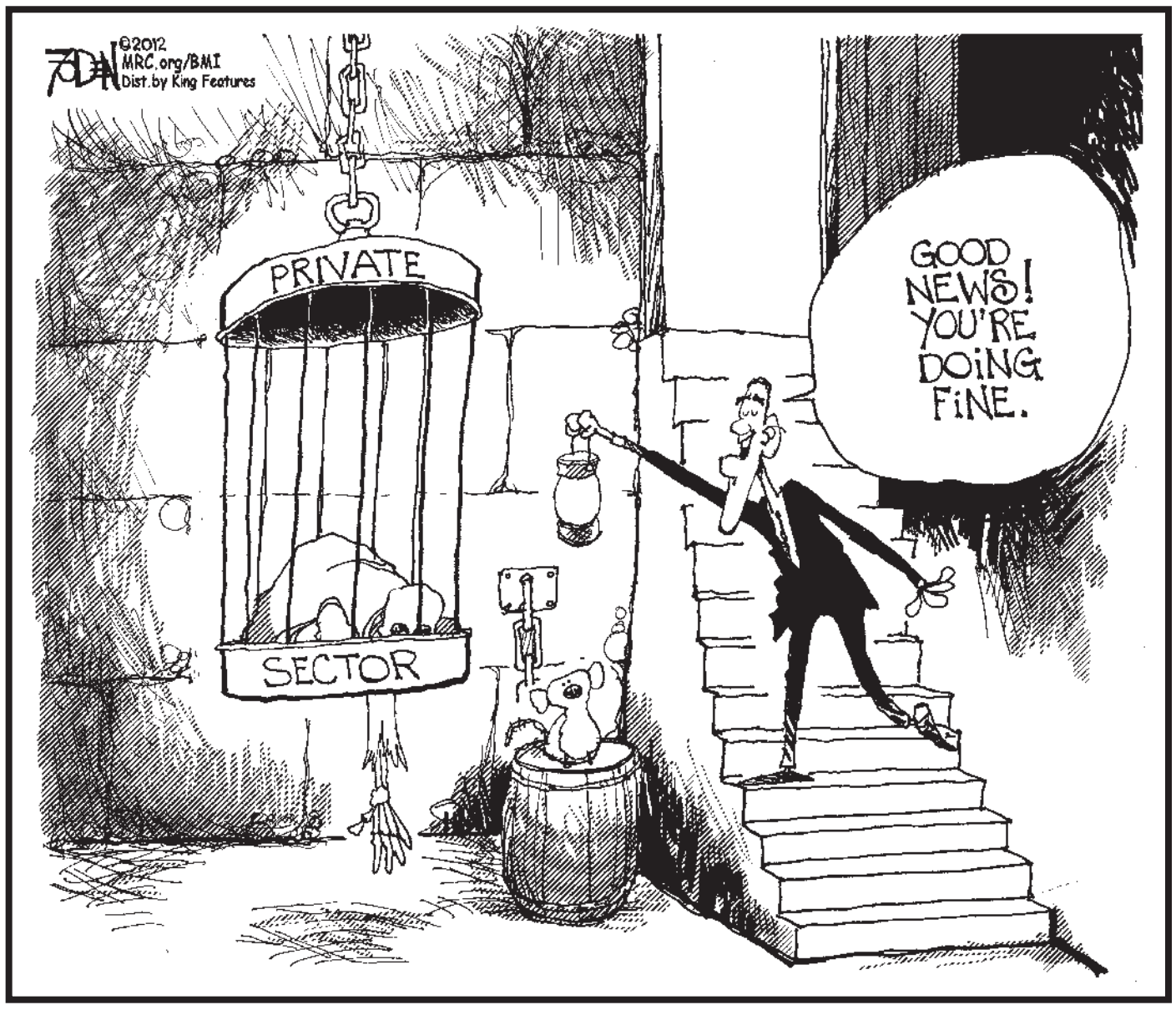
Sure, human sexuality raises many difficult moral dilemmas, but morality extends far beyond that. And the call to live a virtuous life involves myriad other ways in which we serve one another and allow our society to treat the least among us. The Leadership Conference is interested in issues such as shifting Pentagon spending to education and jobs programs; reforming immigration laws; improving health around the globe and preventing domestic violence and human trafficking.

When I think back to the nuns I knew in grade school, I can't imagine Sisters Francis Clare, Fidelis, Jane Marie, Julietta, Cordula or Mary Catherine, all Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, butting heads with the church hierarchy over conforming to doctrine. Of course, that was in the days when you could tell nuns by their habits, well before such "radical feminist" notions as equality between women and men moved to the mainstream.

Like so many others before them and after, those nuns taught, served as role models and no doubt were strong-minded women in their own ways.

A couple of decades after those Catholic-school years, when

See US on Next Page



My Flag Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The 12th of June was once celebrated as Philippine Flag Day before it became the nation's Independence Day; the 14th was America's commemorating the 1777 unfurling of the red, white, and blue.

During the Sports Meeting early May here at the Shenyang Aerospace University, the foreign contingent of students and faculty marched like a haggard haphazard group of inner-city rappers into the highly organized and polish disciplined troupe. An Aussie couple last year brought and displayed their full-sized Oz flag at the march, and the administration thought it was not representative of the multifarious make-up of the group, so this year, they provided each of us our national flag.

Being of two national identities, I was given the choice of either the golden rays of the Land of the Morning Sun or the Stars and Stripes. They only had two for each of Uncle Sam and the Pea Eye but there were two Americans, a Pinay, and *Pinoy-Americano*—me. I marched with the eight golden-rayed sun and three stars!

Flags and banners were the ancients' way of broadcasting presence, whether of a mighty horde or a royal realm. Family crests still grace some of European nation's banners. It symbolized integrity and might. Clans in China were once identified by their banners, and one of Sun Tzu's *Art of War* prescription is to care for one's banners in the battlefield and ensure that they are always in sight of the troops. Meant to keep up morale, the state of one's flag often determines the outcome of a battle.

The famed Iwo Jima flag-raising statue enshrined near the Arlington cemetery in Virginia remains an iconic image, in spite its being posed, arranged for newsprint publication.

Banners, flags, and billowing colors accompany any celebration worth the flow of my excitement. Psychologist tells us that vibrant color unleashes staid enthusiasm!

We have always claimed in our pedagogy that humans operate out of images, determine behavior, and when an image changes, behavior changes as well. Parading the swastika in the environs of a synagogue is a definite no-no, never mind that it is revered among Indo-Aryan devotees. I remember the guys in the '60s who burned Uncle Sam's colors along with their draft cards as inviting for themselves some time in barred confinement. Consequently, some took to trails toward Canada or to the wilds of the Pacific Northwest.

The symmetry of 50 stars designating the States of the Union is so powerful that the possibility of a 51st State, if only in defense of aesthetics, is probably not an option any time soon. The fluttering symbol for Uncle Sam is also very telling: the nation opted for the Union rather than the separation of the States!

It has contradictions. Texas retains an option to divide itself into five States, and the same Senate representation of California to that of Rhode Island baffles the algebra of democratic equity, but what has been dubbed the constitutional compromise was for the sake of the Union. Can one imagine 10 senators from Texas if it divides?

We need not stray too far. The Saipan-Tinian-Rota constitutional compromise on legislative representation makes, e.g., the Manglona-Fitial tiff, of understandable import.

The United States is a federation of political States as the European Union is an economic union of States. The U.S. political union was challenge during the Civil War between the Federal forces versus the State-rights Confederacy. The Federal Union prevailed.

The political union is shaking at the core as political gridlock has characterized the last half century and the foundations of the separation of powers of the legislative, executive and judicial branches is no longer efficient, let alone effective. Whether Obama returns to the White House or is replaced by Romney will just be a shift in emphasis, not a structural change of any consequence.

The European economic Union has shown that financial services as the basis of determining the assets of the global economy is, at best, the accounting of phantom wealth. It reveals the industrialized nation's mercenary actions on resources and production, focusing on the quick accumulation of paper profits at the expense of the sustainable health of the planet and the cultural significance of its peoples.

The *Zhongguo* (middle realm) China flag has one big star with four smaller ones forming an arc to a circle. Ethnically, the five stars are the Han, Tibetan, Muslim, Mongol, and the Manchu. Politically, the big star is the People's Party conjoining the efforts and interest of the workers (industry), the peasants (agriculture), the petit bourgeoisie (middle class), and the national bourgeoisie (capitalists).

What flag and banners grace your walls? Mine is the earthrise image of 1968. My computer screen saver is the blue Gaia in space. My classroom has various maps and images of the world, China, the U.S. and E.U. Central and above all is a poster of the Blue in space, solitary without blemish of all the artificial divisions drawn in maps to delineate historically willed political lines and geographical boundaries. The bounds are images in the mind. They can be liberated and transformed. I did.

Choose your flag, resolve to keep it in being, and wear it with pride! I do.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Failure of Obamanomics

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

About four years ago, my son (JB) and I went for the jugular: McCain vs. Obama as the best prospect for the White House job. He took the latter while I stuck to my conservative guns. He vividly compares ideological and philosophical differences, age, relevancy, fluency, and alacrity, answering heavy questions and youthful appeal as a charismatic kid from Harvard Law School.

As political events heated up, I saw Barack Obama's superiority as a speaker with hortatory speeches that dwarf anybody and most everybody. Toward Election Day, I slowly slipped into that unbridled enthusiasm subscribing to his "Change you can believe in" slogan as did a legion of young people across the country.

Obama's "American Promise" was so thoroughly articulated it's almost a mortal sin ignoring it. I still believed in it, then. Most were ready for change he promised for the better. Slowly, what he promised revealed itself as a world-class chutzpah that resembled the proverbial tip of the iceberg of his presidency.

Today, the president has the audacity to openly lie that spending was far less during his charge than most presidents over the last 60 years. Sorry, sir, but while you inherited $1 trillion in deficit from President Bush, how do you spin and hide a $4 trillion overspending under your presidency? Why would you want to spend more after overspending? Is it right to bring our country close to Fiscal Cliff?

The slick use of fuzzy math isn't going to make a difference. The issue of the economy at its worst and, if I may reiterate, under Obama's charge, is most prominent among people's mind, especially among the unemployed, underemployed, folks who've succumbed to home foreclosures, paying more at the gas pump and hopelessness as they look forward to a blurry future.

The Obama "American Promise" has turned into a sad litany of promises as to venture audacity so he doesn't have to face justifying his woefully dismal performance on the economy and other equally vital national concerns. And so Obama has a record he refuses to stand on, much less defend.

In 2008, he lied to the American people about his direct relationship with ACORN, an extreme leftist group who has embraced European socialism. ACORN wanted its agenda to replace the principles upon which our country was founded. No sir! It's time to send Obama packing!

Strangely, Obama's strategy to make certain issues stick with Romney has failed. That being said, I think the "Change you can believe" has taken on a new definition: Move over so Mitt Romney could terminate your European model socialism (inundated with your warped definition of inequality). Too, the Wisconsin/California blow out (heard around the world) is a clear litmus test of your failed leadership. Gone!

Obsolescence isn't an option either and not when we know that your European model will drag everybody down the abyss of an entitlement culture. It's time to return our country to the very principles that allowed it to prosper over the last 200-plus years. It's called freedom!

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Remembering summer

This summer brought some sentimental journey into days we used to know a long time ago. I remember the happy faces of folks I went to school with, many of whom have faded, some with canes or walkers as they enter their sunset years.

Slow and fragile they may be but they used to excel in sports or showed unsung valor in the military. Their steps quicken and eyes glow brightly as they talk of their best days some 40 to 60 years ago.

Sad tidings of private school closures deepened the sentimental glimpse of bidding classmates adios for the school year, heading into summer. I feel for everyone involved in the education of pupils who now must matriculate elsewhere. The bad economy has paralyzed all dreams of what could have been an alma mater. It's really sad how the Fiscal Cliff has scared off both privately run schools and businesses, large and small. Sadly, darker days are the only certainty in "Emergency Island," crowned by "Fiscal Cliff" hill somewhere up north.

Summer means doing farm work, the "in thing" for most of my peers in the '60s. Each day was as hard as the next. Farm work is hard work that begins at dawn and ends at dusk. By the time we return home, we're bone tired, ready for supper and a good night's rest.

We didn't have radio anywhere until about 1965. Television came a bit later. It was a single channel broadcast system that must have been a relic of the '30s. Watching television then was a family affair. Often, we had to endure garbled pictures daily and nightly until midnight. We had no choice for we wanted to hear a week's old national news on CBS, soap operas, Father Knows Best, the Ed Sullivan Show and Gun Smoke.

The old Matsumoto movie theatre was the center for those who could afford a flick. Otherwise, you wait for moviegoers to tell you what the star did or how he killed the bad guys. I mean the original story is so regurgitated the actual episode completely changed by next day's story telling. But that was gossip on the islands, venturing into the big time.

Nevertheless, I revisited the old school buildings that no longer exist between CK elementary and Saipan Intermediate School (now Hopwood Junior High). The old porch, classrooms and playground at CK were familiar places where our new senior citizens once walked and left their footprints a long time ago. I am sure they too have fond memories of days gone by where they learned their ABCs until graduation from high school.

Most have had successful careers in both government and private industries while others cruised along. Be that as it may, how pleasant it is walking down memory lane, once more remembering folks who are now grand patriarchs and matriarchs. As we fade into the sunset we ask: Would our eyes still glow, steps quicken, cane and walkers replaced or do we accept the quirk of fate? Have a good one! Si JR.

Obama, Romney and the many misinterpretations of Albert Camus

By JOHN KENNEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For the modern American reader, few lines in French literature are as famous as the opening of Albert Camus's *L'Étranger*: "Aujourd'hui, maman est morte.*"* Nitty-gritty tense issues aside, the first sentence of *The Stranger* is so elementary that even a schoolboy with a base knowledge of French could adequately translate it. So why do the pros keep getting it wrong?—Ryan Bloom, newyorker.com

■ ■ ■

President Obama today weighed in on the translation of Algerian-born French writer, Albert Camus' seminal work, *The Stranger.* The president announced that "like most Americans, the first sentence of *The Stranger* has never quite seemed right to me."

After consulting with the French ambassador to the United States, NATO, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a schoolboy with a basic knowledge of French, the president said in a news conference that he was confident the line should be read this way: "Our understanding is that Mother may have passed away today, though it might have happened yesterday. I think it would be foolish to judge what happened before the facts are in. Obviously we mourn the loss. We find solace in her memory. Critics of Mother, including my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, have said Mother may not have died, that she was merely quite ill, and that her illness, while tragic, is another example of the cost of healthcare in this country. Fortunately she was French and covered by that system."

■ ■ ■

Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney, who spent time in France as a missionary, angrily disagreed with Obama's translation of the first sentence in Albert Camus' novel *The Stranger.* Romney, speaking to a group of schoolboys with a limited knowledge of French and no understanding of who Albert Camus was, said, "Did Mother die today? The president says she did. How can we know for sure? Besides an autopsy report from the French police and her son as eyewitness, all of which we learn about later in the novel, we have no proof of her death, any more than we do of global warming. … Look … look … the question isn't whether Mother died today. For all we know it could have been yesterday … or maybe she's not dead, maybe she's lost…. Old people get confused sometimes. The word for lost in French is perdu … like the chicken … funny. … The point is that I agree with capital punishment, even for elderly French mothers, and by agree I mean disagree if I have to, depending on the day, the hour or the minute, or whether there's a French person in the room. Any French people here today?"

■ ■ ■

Fox News host Megyn Kelly said that President Obama's recent translation of the first sentence of Albert Camus' novel *The Stranger* was yet another example of how out of touch he was with the American people and L'Académie Française. Kelly said she sat down with a French dictionary and a bottle of white burgundy and found a "fair and balanced" translation of the sentence. Kelly read the sentence on air, surrounded by schoolboys who spoke no French, only Spanish. "Mother died today as a result of President Obama's death panels, proving once again that 'Obamacare'—and this president personally—will idly stand by as millions of elderly people die needlessly, be they French or otherwise."

■ ■ ■

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, spoke at the United Nations today, announcing a new Farsi translation of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. Ahmadinejad, speaking to a largely empty General Assembly, said that the proper translation should read as follows: "If Mother died yesterday—and there is no proof of this—it was most likely a Zionist plot, and why is he a 'stranger' just because he has no feelings or feelings that are 'aberrant' or 'bizarre' or not 'founded in reality.' Little bunnies, little bunnies, look how they run. … Did you not see them?"

■ ■ ■

Israel reacted angrily today to Ahmadinejad's translation of Camus' *The Stranger*. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a statement saying the Iranian leader "has once again shown his delusional nature and complete ignorance of Camus' oeuvre. Even someone with no knowledge of ancient Aramaic knows that the sentence should read 'Mother didn't die today. She said she thought she might as well be dead since no one ever called her.'"

■ ■ ■

In a surprise move, JP Morgan Chase announced it has made a new translation of Camus' *The Stranger*. The translation, read by CEO Jamie Dimon at a Senate hearing, is as follows: "Mother did not die, she was merely misplaced. Lost actually. We've lost upward of 2 billion mothers, and that number could go up. These things happen, and to regulate mothers and their lives is, to me and anyone with a brain, foolish, and if you don't get that, maybe you should get lost."

■ ■ ■

The New York Post reported today that the correct translation of the opening sentence of Albert Camus' book *The Stranger* should read: "Algerian mother killed by son in brutal murder; French police are holding Dominique Strauss-Kahn for questioning."

John Kenney's first novel, Truth in Advertising, *will be published this fall. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

US

From Page 10

my husband and I were befriended by Sister Theresa, who led the program at our Maryland church for adults becoming Catholics, we so admired her dedicated, thoughtful and realistic approach to living her faith that we asked her to be our daughter's godmother.

This distressing conflict between Rome and the nuns can only diminish the voice the church might bring to political discussion in this country. I don't always agree with the U.S. bishops—for instance, suing the Obama administration over insurance coverage for birth control seems misguided—but they can add important perspective to public debates over the death penalty, war and, yes, abortion.

If the church can't tolerate reasoned, rational internal debate, how can its leaders expect to be listened to in the public square?

On Monday, the Vatican warned Catholics away from a book by a nun who taught Christian ethics at Yale Divinity School because the text, published in 2006, doesn't sufficiently condemn masturbation, gay marriage and divorce.

Meanwhile, stranger-than-fiction intrigue swirls around the Vatican, with the pope's butler being suspected of leaking internal documents that suggest power struggles and Machiavellian schemes designed to control the eventual selection of Benedict's successor.

Is it any wonder that so many are standing with the sisters?

Linda P. Campbell is a columnist and editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via email at lcampbell@star-telegram.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼80°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

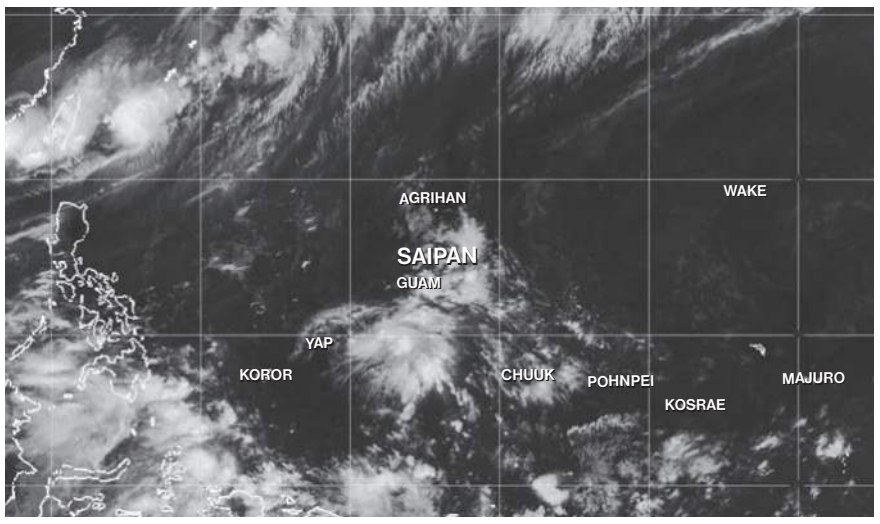
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲79	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
New York	Showers	▲71	▼66
Osaka	Cloudy	▲81	▼67
Paris	Showers	▲66	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲77	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼60
Salem	Showers	▲67	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼66
Tokyo	Showers	▲73	▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly upgraded Tropical Storm 05W is centered 260 miles south-southwest of Guam at 10N143E with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Tropical Storm 05W is moving west-northwest at 9 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 175 miles of the center. For more detailed information, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and bulletins issued by the NWS under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. An upper-level low is centered over the Northern CNMI near 18N146E. Divergent upper-level winds to the southeast of the center are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan between 12N and 17N from 145E to 150E. A monsoon trough curves eastward from 7N130E to 2N139E to end in Tropical Storm 05W. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Koror and south of Guam or south of a line from 7N130E to 1N136E to 1N141E to 7N144E. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro or south of a line from 2N156E to 4N173E. Tarawa and Butaritari atolls are included in this area.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
4:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:58 AM	1:35 PM
Thursday	1:36 AM	2:23 PM
Friday	2:15 AM	3:11 PM
Saturday	2:56 AM	4:01 PM
Sunday	3:40 AM	4:50 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Song, Lee are most outstanding graduates of SSHS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Junior High School top student Mikhail T. Alcantara, third from left, is flanked by family members after the promotional ceremonies Thursday on campus. From left are father Jerry, sister Jan Kimberly, Mikhail, and mother Ligaya.

Alcantara is Hopwood's top graduate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School hailed Mikhail Tecson Alcantara as this year's most outstanding student, presenting him with the prestigious Board of Education Award during the institution's commencement rites on campus Thursday.

Alcantara is the youngest son of Jerry and Ligaya Tecson Alcantara. A consistent honor since primary grade, Mikhail was also the recipient of other special honors and recognitions for his outstanding performance both in academic and extra-curricular activities.

He was bestowed eight medals that included excellence in leadership for mock trial, excellence in academic achievement, excellence in leadership for student council, gold medal for Junior Thespian Monologue, participation in the Math Olympiad, excellence in Thespians, excellence in leadership for the Youth Advisory Panel, and recognition for exit exam competition.

For subject area awards, Mikhail was hailed best in science, math, language arts, social studies, Math Olympiad, and was gold recipient of the President's Education Awards program. Alcantara was also presented with a certificate of recognition from the Youth Advisory Panel and cited for his perfect attendance.

He also got two trophies: the Leadership Award and for winning first place in an essay and speech competition. Mikhail was a consistent participant of various competitions—poetry, spelling, math court, mock trial, thespian, academic challenge bee, math Olympiad, geography bee, essay, and SAT 10 Challenge Bowl.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Mikhail expressed satisfaction and relief. "I feel great and accomplished. All of my years of hard work finally paid off," he said.

Top awards for Hopwood graduates always come as a surprise. Mikhail's valedictory address was an impromptu performance before hundreds of spectators.

Alcantara described junior high as among the best years of his life.

"I learned that there will always be obstacles on the way, but as long as you keep in mind that you have your family and friends to support you and always give a hundred percent, you will succeed in your endeavors. I would describe junior high to be the best two years of my life so far," he said.

Mikhail is not worried about the challenges he will face in high school. "I know that high school will be harder and there will be more challenges, but with my family to support me with their love and guidance, I will be able to accomplish the same things that I did in my junior high."

Other awardees

Hopwood hailed Patrick Agustin as this year's salutatorian, receiving from Dr. Rita A. Sablan the Education Commissioner's Award.

Students on the Top Ten list included Alcantara, Agustin, Hannah Francine Hofschneider, Masrur S. Alam, Angela Aninon, Rhea Ann Banados, Diana Lopera, Dianne Pablo, Marchie Fernandez, and Annika Matias.

Hopwood promoted 481 students to high school during last week's promotional ceremony that was also graced by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Board of Education members, and PSS officials.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Min Jung Song and Doyi Lee, both 18, emerged as the most outstanding students of Saipan Southern High School during commencement exercises on campus last week.

Min Jung Song, the daughter of Song Byeong Sam and Shim Eun Hyun, was this year's recipient of the Board of Education Award as class valedictorian. She was also presented with other special honors.

Song plans to pursue a nursing degree at the Northern Marianas College before transferring to California to further her studies.

In her valedictory address, Song acknowledged her family and friends for their support and guidance and encouraged her peers to take "that first step."

"My friends, now it's time for you to move on to what's next. And don't let anything stop you from taking that first step. Michael Dell once said, 'Don't spend so much time trying to

MIN JUNG SONG
Valedictorian

DOYI LEE
Salutatorian

choose the perfect opportunity, that you miss the right one. Realize that there will be failures and acknowledge that there will be obstacles. But you will learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others, for there is very little learning in success.' Class of 2012, as we start our own expedition, the first thing we should do is to draw our own maps. Life doesn't come with a manual on how to become No. 1 in the world. We have to figure that out every step of the way. Go live, learn, love, and laugh," she told the crowd.

This year's salutatorian, Doyi Lee, was presented with the Commissioner of Education Award and other special recognitions and honors. She plans to take up psychology at Grinnell College in Iowa. Lee is the daughter of Bo Hwa Lee and Hong Sook Lee.

In her address, Lee gave thanks to her parents, mentors, and peers. "This is the day we become independent individuals set for our glowing futures in college, the military, and the work force, officially entering an absolutely different world that we've yet to adapt to. I though this day would never come; I'm sure you all have been thinking that as well. I'm deeply grateful for the fact that you joined my life and made a difference in me little by little. Congratulations Class of 2012!" said Lee.

Students on the Top 10 list included Min Jung Song, Doyi Lee, Soo Jin Choi, Momoko Nishikido, Minchong Kang, Hannah Shai, Carmen Borja, Richie Xu, Lallane Guiao, and Yuri Song.

SSHS presented diplomas to 159 graduates this year. Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos bestowed the Governor's Award on Welington David, while Carmen Borja was named recipient of the OFEGRA Award. Principal Jesse Tudela and vice principal Jocelyn Manibusan bestowed the principal's award on Lallane Guiao.

The awarding ceremony was attended by parents, community members, PSS and Education Board officials and was keynoted by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top honors of this year's graduates from the Saipan American Education Foundation, Karen Marie Fajardo and John Joshua Valiente, inset, speak to the crowd during their commencement rites Saturday at Pacific Islands Club.

SAEF, Kids Cove promote 40 students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan American Education Foundation School and sister institution Kids Cove Learning Center promoted 40 students this school year in separate commencement ceremonies at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday.

Names as top students were Karen Marie P. Fajardo and John Joshua C. Valiente, who emerged valedictorian and salutatorian respectively, in the junior division of SAEFS. The first honorable mention went to Sophiana Jo T. Deleon Guerrero.

This year marked SAEF's third commencement exercises. Thirteen students were simultaneously promoted to the next grade level: six graduated from middle school while seven students completed sixth grade.

For Kids Cove Learning Center, 27 students from K-3 and K-5 were promoted to the next grade level. Named top students in K-3 were Deena B. Karki, first honor; Jonald R. Gutierrez, second honor; and Alexandra M. Dalogdog, third honor.

Most outstanding students in K-5 included Angel Lou D. Buensalido, first honor; Erin Jasmine F. Abantao, second honor; and Betty A. Matson, third honor.

Tan Holdings senior vice president Glicerio Arago was the event's keynote speaker, while Jacqueline Ann Fong, principal of both institutions, gave the opening remarks. Both events were also addressed by the institutions' manager, Rick Brien.

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mark Daniel Versoza poses with his trophies for Second Graduating with Honor and Consistent Honor Roll. He also received a medal for Perfect Attendance during the Junior High School graduation held on June 7, 2012, at the Grace Christian Academy school auditorium.

Suspended lawyer says Govendo, Wiseman were not impartial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Suspended attorney Reynaldo O. Yana is asking for justice, expressing belief that Superior Court associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo and David A. Wiseman were not impartial in handling his disciplinary case.

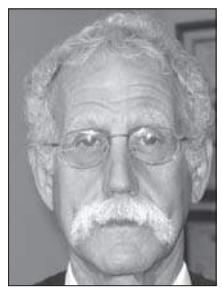
Yana believes that he has not received true justice ever since Govendo refused to disqualify himself in the Angel Malite probate case.

"True justice requires, among other things, that a judge, who decides my fate in a court of law, must be impartial. I don't believe that Judge Govendo and Judge Wiseman were impartial," Yana said.

Yana made the statement in his reply to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's order directing him and attorney Antonio M. Atalig to explain why they should not be suspended from practicing law in the district court.

In her order issued last month, Manglona said she has received from the Superior Court a copy of Wiseman's order that indefinitely suspends Atalig and Yana from the practice of law in the Commonwealth. Manglona gave Atalig and Yana 30 days to inform her of any claim that the imposition of a similar sanction in the district court would be unwarranted.

Wiseman had ordered Atalig and Yana suspended from practicing law in the CNMI for misconduct for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that they got from the Malite estate. The suspension is indefinite until Atalig and Yana have complied with conditions.


Govendo

On Friday, Yana filed with the federal court a statement saying he does not have any pending cases in the district court and that he has no plans to practice in that court until the CNMI Supreme Court has decided on his appeal versus Wiseman's suspension order.

Yana said he has no problem with the district court "rubber stamping" Wiseman's order to suspend him but that he has "a statement to make."

Yana discussed the procedural history of the disciplinary case against him and Atalig that, according to him, is "full of questionable events."

Atalig, as then counsel for the Malite heirs, succeeded in getting a $3.45 million award from the Marianas Public Land Authority for the taking of their land.

After MPLA turned over the $3.45 million check to the court for custody and control, the heirs hired another attorney, Stephen Nutting, who then filed a motion to disqualify then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama from presiding over the Malite case.

Lizama was the one who approved the request of Yana and Atalig for $1.1 million in attorneys' fees, pursuant to contingent fee agreements.

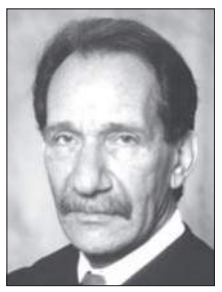
Wiseman, who presided over the disqualification motion, later disqualified Lizama. Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja then assigned Wiseman to preside over the Malite estate case where the award of attorney's fees to Yana and Atalig was being challenged.

Yana said that before presiding over the Malite estate case, Wiseman said something to Lizama to the effect that he (Yana) and Atalig did not deserve to receive the attorney's fees that were awarded them.

"When this information was made know to the parties, I and Atalig moved to disqualify Judge Wiseman. Judge Wiseman recused himself from the case. And the whistleblower [Judge Lizama] was charged [with] ethics violation and was sanctioned by the Supreme Court," Yana said.

Naraja assigned Govendo to take over the case.

Yana said that prior to Govendo's takeover of the case, he and Atalig were gathering transcripts of records of adoption cases in which Yana was either part of or had heard of.


Wiseman

In many of those adoption cases, Govendo repeatedly expressed his intention that he would not approve the adoptions of alien children who are either nieces or nephews of U.S. citizen petitioners or grandchildren of U.S. citizen petitioners.

"We believed that Judge Govendo was handling adoption cases in which he clearly had bias against alien children," Yana said, adding that shortly after Govendo was assigned to the Malite case, they filed an ethics complaint against him.

In spite of that complaint, Yana said Govendo did not voluntarily recuse himself.

Because an ethics complaint is supposed to be confidential, this was not mentioned in their motion to disqualify Govendo, Yana said.

He said that Judge Richard Benson, who was assigned to investigate the ethics complaint against Govendo, waited for two years to enter a decision dismissing the complaint on the ground that Yana did not appeal each one of those adoption cases for Govendo's unethical conduct. Yana said there were no case laws cited in Benson's order of dismissal.

He said that Benson later manifested his double standard when Judge Manglona filed an ethics complaint against Govendo for inappropriate language used against a Filipino respondent in a child support case. Yana noted that Benson did not dismiss the case, even though the Filipino failed to appeal Govendo's unethical conduct.

However, Yana said, in his recommendation to have Govendo be tried before the Supreme Court for unethical conduct, Benson cited some of the biased statements that Govendo made in the adoption cases.

Govendo, Yana said, was subsequently found guilty of the unethical conduct and was prohibited from handling domestic cases, including adoptions for a period of one year.

Aside from jailing him and Atalig for almost two years, Yana said that Govendo also filed a disciplinary complaint against them involving their attorney's fees.

Wiseman was assigned to preside over the disciplinary complaint.

Yana and Atalig moved to disqualify Wiseman because the complaint had something to do with whether they deserved the attorney fees because Wiseman had previously recused himself for his comments against them with respect to their attorney fees.

"A reading of Judge Wiseman's order suspending us manifests a clear sign that he was still harboring the same thought that he made when he made a statement to Judge Lizama that we did not deserve the fees [that] we had received," Yana said.

Yana said the Supreme Court has reversed Govendo's judgment that they were entitled to zero attorney fees, and remanded the Malite case for a new hearing on their attorney's fees.

"At this writing, Judge Govendo has still not fully decided whether or not we are entitled to all the attorney's fees that we already received," he said.

Thus, Yana pointed out, Wiseman's order that they should pay 10 percent of the attorney fees they received is a clear manifestation that he had already decided that they were not entitled to any attorney's fees.

ON MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWSUIT

Justices rule school pastor entitled to future non-economic damages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that a school pastor who was awarded $13,797 in damages in connection with his lawsuit against the Commonwealth Health Center and two of its former doctors for misdiagnosing his fractured ankle as a sprain is entitled to future non-economic damages.

The high court determined that Grace Christian pastor Alvin Owens is entitled to a new trial for past economic damages and future non-economic damages.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona penned the opinion Thursday last week. Retired chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justice pro tem Edward Manibusan concurred with Manglona's ruling.

The justices reversed the Superior Court's denial of Owens' motion for judgment on the issue of his future non-economic damages and vacated the Superior Court's denial of Owens' motion for a new trial on the issue of non-economic damages.

According to court records, Owens filed the lawsuit in 2004 against CHC and Drs. Bernedette Saccamanno and J. David Southcott.

The complaint stated that on March 6, 2004, Owens had an accident on a moped. He sought treatment at CHC's emergency room the following day as his ankle was bothering him. Saccamanno ordered an X-ray of the ankle and diagnosed his injury as a sprain.

In April 2004, a Pacific Medical Center doctor re-examined Owens' ankle and determined that it was a fracture.

In May 2004, an orthopedic specialist performed an operation on Owens' ankle and a portion of the bone was removed.

Owens sued CHC. In 2007, a local jury awarded him $13,797 in damages.

The jurors actually awarded Owens $22,995 in damages for past non-economic loss, including physical and mental pain and suffering. The jurors, however, agreed that Owens' negligence was also a substantial factor in causing his harm. The jurors assigned 60 percent of negligent responsibility to the Commonwealth and 40 percent to Owens. This reduced CHC's liability to the pastor to just $13,797.

Owens and the government stipulated that CHC was negligent when it came to the conduct of Drs. Saccamanno and Southcott.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, who presided over the jury trial, determined that CHC was negligent when it failed to have Owens' X-rays reviewed by a radiologist within 24 hours.

Owens then appealed to the Supreme Court the trial court's denial of his motion for judgment as a matter of law and his alternative motion for a new trial.

In his appeal, Owens, through counsel, argued that he was entitled to judgment as a matter of law or alternatively, a new trial on the issue of his future economic and non-economic damages.

Owens also appealed the trial court's conclusion that the fees he paid to his expert witnesses are not recoverable against the government.

In the high court's opinion, the justices found that the Superior Court did not err when it refused to grant Owens' motion for judgment as a matter of law or a new trial on the issue of future economic damages.

On the future non-economic damages issue, the justices said considering the uncontroverted testimony that Owens' injury produced physical pain following strenuous activity and prevented or restricted his participation in a number of physical activities he had enjoyed prior to his injury, they find that no reasonable jury could have concluded Owens' future non-economic damages to be zero.

Fee waivers for NMC Cash for College workshop participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop will qualify to have their NMC fall 2012 admissions application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The free workshop will be held on this Saturday, June 16, 2012, in Building A at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by any time between 9am and 3pm.

The aim of this workshop is to assist students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

Participants will also be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the College Access Challenge Grant Scholarship, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, the CNMI Scholarship, the TEACH Grant and more.

During this event, NMC Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to assist workshop participants and answer questions.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school, tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2010 and 2011, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1526 or email daisym@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

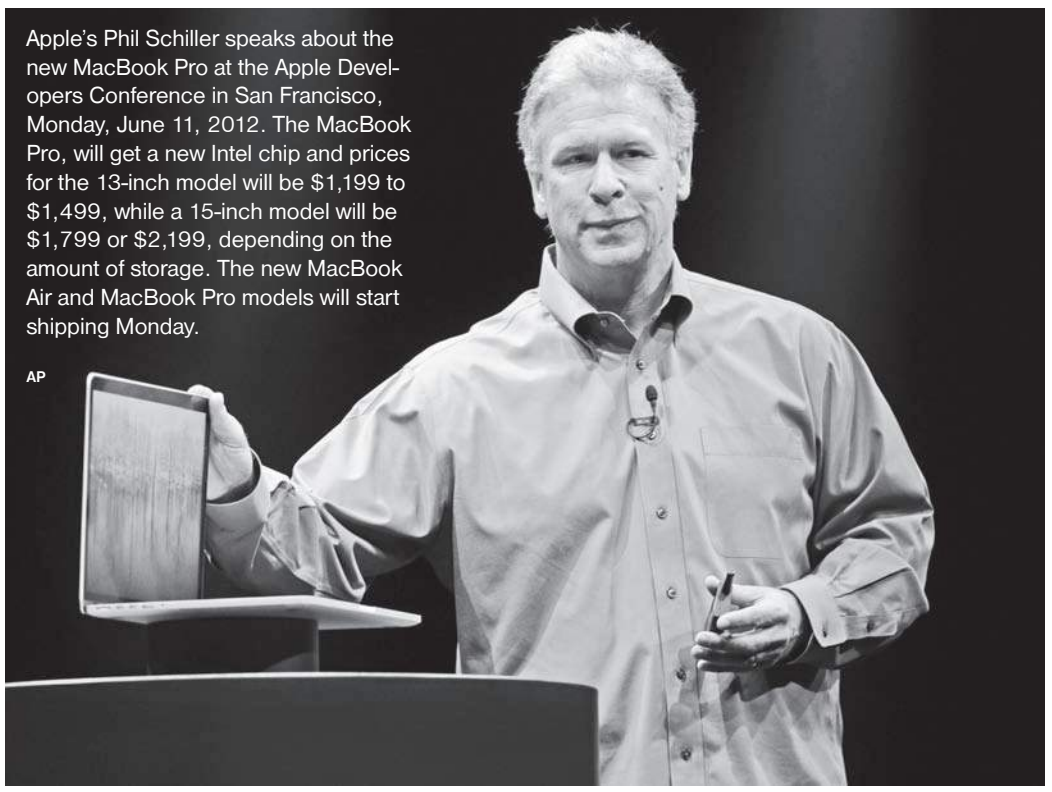
Janelle I. Cepeda, who graduated on May 24, 2012, at Fort Jackson, SC, poses with her family after the recent commencement exercises. In photo are, from left, family friend Bryan, her father David B. Cepeda, sister Nicole, and her mother Janet P. Iglecias. Janelle is the fourth in the family to join the U.S. military.

BUDDING CHAMP

Congratulations to Janece Mae C. Salas for her team's win in the TCS Arizona A&B State Tournament. Janece mainly caught for her team but also played at shortstop, third base and left and right outfield. Her team, AZ Strategy, won the Triple Crown Sports Tournament last weekend, June 3, 2012, in Glendale, Arizona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business



Apple's Phil Schiller speaks about the new MacBook Pro at the Apple Developers Conference in San Francisco, Monday, June 11, 2012. The MacBook Pro, will get a new Intel chip and prices for the 13-inch model will be $1,199 to $1,499, while a 15-inch model will be $1,799 or $2,199, depending on the amount of storage. The new MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models will start shipping Monday.

AP

Apple kicks off Google Maps from iPhone, adds Facebook

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Steve Jobs' vendetta against Google remains alive, eight months after the Apple cofounder died feeling betrayed by a company he once embraced as an ally.

Apple is escalating the feud between two of the world's most influential companies by dumping Google's mapping service as a built-in feature on most iPhones and iPads. Apple is also making it easier for users of those devices to share their lives on Facebook instead of Google's competing social network.

The snubs are part of an upgraded mobile operating system that Apple previewed Monday to kick off its 23rd annual developers conference in San Francisco.

Google's mapping service will be replaced by an Apple-designed alternative when the new software for mobile devices, iOS 6, is released this fall. Those who want to continue using Google Maps will have to go through additional hurdle, such as finding and installing its app.

It represents a major blow for Google Inc., which stands to lose mobile advertising revenue and valuable insights about people's whereabouts if users of the popular iPhone and iPad devices switch to Apple's mapping service.

Apple and Google are locked in a fight for the attention of hundreds of millions of mobile device users. The battle has been building since Google's 2008 release of its Android operating system to compete against the iPhone.

Android smartphones from companies such as Samsung Electronics Co. and Google's own Motorola division are the chief alternatives to the iPhone. Apple has sued those manufacturers, accusing them of ripping off the iPhone's ground-breaking features.

Google's Maps application has resided on the iPhone since the device's 2007 debut. At that time, the companies were so close that Eric Schmidt, then Google's CEO, appeared on stage with Jobs to hail their kinship.

Android destroyed the relationship. Before he died last October, Jobs told his biographer, Walter Isaacson, that he viewed Android as a form of "grand theft" from Apple and declared "thermonuclear war" against his former ally.

"This is a slap in Google's face," said Tim Bajarin, a Creative Strategies analyst who got to know Jobs well during his 32 years following the company. "I don't think Apple is ever going to be able to bury Android, but this is making it clear that they aren't going to send any more ad revenue Google's way, if at all possible."

Apple updates its iOS software every year, to coincide with the launch of a new iPhone. Google is scheduled to show off the latest developments in Android at a conference that will be held at the same San Francisco venue beginning June 27.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hits eight-month low

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil touched an eight-month low near $81 a barrel Tuesday in Asia amid concern Spain's bank bailout won't be enough to stem Europe's debt crisis. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down 57 cents to $82.13 per barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the Tuesday, oil dropped to $81.07, the lowest since October. The contract fell $1.40 to settle at $82.70 in New York on Monday. In London, Brent crude for July delivery was down 34 cents at $97.66 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Spain bank rescue glee morphs into markets rout

MADRID (AP)—Euphoria over a lifeline of up to (EURO)100 billion ($125 billion) to rescue Spain's hurting banks morphed into a financial markets rout in a matter of hours Monday, as investors digested the still-undefined plan and became concerned the country may be unable to repay the new loans. The rate on Spanish 10-year bonds—a measure of market trust in a country's ability to repay debt—rose to an alarmingly high yield of 6.47 percent at the close of trading after falling to 6 percent in the morning. And the benchmark IBEX-35 stock index closed down 0.5 percent after surging 6 percent in the morning.

Asia stocks fall as Spain, Italy worry investors

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stock markets slid Tuesday as enthusiasm for a European plan to rescue Spain's teetering banks turned to skepticism. Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 1 percent to 8,541.78. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.6 percent to 1,855.14 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was 0.7 percent lower at 18,825.19. Benchmarks in Singapore, Taiwan and mainland China fell. But Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.2 percent to 4,073.30. Spain became the fourth European nation to seek a rescue, after Greece, Portugal and Ireland. Some investors fear it is only a matter of time before Italy becomes the next country to ask for help.

Nation

Penn State trial kicks off with Victim 4's graphic testimony

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—Jerry Sandusky's trial in the Penn State scandal opened in graphic fashion Monday with the first witness testifying that the retired coach molested him in the locker-room showers and in hotels while trying to ensure his silence with gifts and trips to bowl games.

The man, now 28 and dubbed Victim 4 in court papers, left nothing to the imagination as he told the jury about the abuse he said he endured for five years beginning when he was a teenager in the late 1990s.

"I've denied it forever," he testified, looking straight at the prosecutor as Sandusky sat motionless nearby.

Sandusky, 68, faces 52 counts that he sexually abused 10 boys over 15 years. The former assistant football coach has denied the allegations. His arrest last year shamed the university and led to the ouster of beloved Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno and Penn State's president.

In opening statements, prosecutor Joseph McGettigan III told the jury that Sandusky was a "predatory pedophile" who methodically used his youth charity, The Second Mile, to zero in on fatherless children or those with unstable home lives, plied them with gifts and took advantage of them sexually.

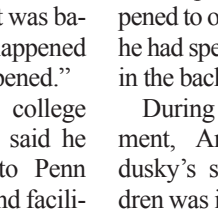
Sandusky lawyer Joe Amendola countered that the allegations are flimsy and that some of the accusers apparently intend to sue and have a financial stake in the outcome—a preview of the battle to come as the defense tries to undermine the credibility of the young men upon whom the prosecution's case rests.

Until Monday, none of them had testified publicly, and their identities were shielded. The Associated Press typically doesn't identify people who say they are victims of sex crimes.

Victim 4 spoke calmly and firmly under questioning by the prosecutor and acknowledged he had at first lied to police and even his own attorney about the alleged abuse.

"I don't even want to be involved now, to be honest," he said.

In the car, Sandusky "would put his hand on my leg, basically like I was his girlfriend. ... It freaked me out extremely bad," the man said, extending his arm and pushing it back and forth. "I pushed it away. ... After a little while, it would come right back. That drove me nuts."



Sandusky

The man said he met Sandusky through The Second Mile and that they began showering together in 1997. What began as "soap battles" quickly progressed to oral sex and other contact, the accuser said, adding that he was 90 or 100 pounds and powerless to resist the advances of the much larger man.

According to the witness, Sandusky tried assaulting him in a hotel bathroom before a bowl banquet in Texas and threatened to send him home when he resisted, warning: "You don't want to go back, do you?" Sandusky stopped only when his wife, Dottie, called out from another room, the witness said.

Over the years, the witness said, he never told Sandusky to stop.

"It was never talked about, ever," the man said. "It was basically like whatever happened there never really happened."

A self-described college football fan, the man said he enjoyed the access to Penn State football games and facilities. The man said Sandusky let him wear the No. 11 uniform of LaVar Arrington.

The man testified that Sandusky also took him on trips to bowl games, including the Outback and the Alamo. He gave the boy golf clubs, snowboards, drum sets and various Penn State memorabilia, including a watch from the Orange Bowl, the man testified. He said he would wear gift jerseys to school.

The witness said Sandusky occasionally sent him "creepy love letters."

One letter, shown on a video screen in court, was handwritten on Penn State letterhead and signed "Jerry." It read: "I know that I have made my share of mistakes. However I hope that I will be able to say that I cared. There has been love in my heart."

Eventually, as the man got older and acquired a girlfriend, he became "basically sick of what was happening to me" and distanced himself from Sandusky. They had not spoken since 2002 when, in 2010, he took his girlfriend and 3-year-old son to visit the Sanduskys in what he said was an attempt to convince his girlfriend her suspicions about Sandusky were not true.

He said that "backfired" when Sandusky gave him a lot of attention and tried to rub his shoulders.

Under cross-examination by Amendola, the man expressed regret for not coming forward earlier, saying: "I feel if I just said something back then ... I feel responsible for what happened to other victims." He said he had spent years "burying this in the back of my head."

During his opening statement, Amendola said Sandusky's showering with children was innocuous and part of his upbringing.

"In Jerry's culture, growing up in his generation, where he grew up, he's going to tell you it was routine for individuals to get showers together," the lawyer said. "I suspect for those of you who might have been in athletics, it's routine."

ACROSS THE NATION

Mass. town OKs $20 fines for swearing in public

MIDDLEBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Residents in Middleborough voted Monday night to make the foul-mouthed pay fines for swearing in public. At a town meeting, residents voted 183-50 to approve a proposal from the police chief to impose a $20 fine on public profanity. Officials insist the proposal was not intended to censor casual or private conversations, but instead to crack down on loud, profanity-laden language used by teens and other young people in the downtown area and public parks. I'm really happy about it," Mimi Duphily, a store owner and former town selectwoman, said after the vote. "I'm sure there's going to be some fallout, but I think what we did was necessary."

Wildfires in Colo., NM burn out of control

BELLVUE, Colo. (AP)—Massive wildfires in drought-parched Colorado and New Mexico tested the resources of state and federal crews Monday and underscored the need to replenish an aging U.S. aerial firefighting fleet needed to combat a year-round fire season. Wyoming diverted personnel and aircraft from two fires there to help with a 64-square-mile wildfire in northern Colorado. Canada also lent two aerial bombers to fight the Colorado blaze following the recent crash of a U.S. tanker in Utah. And an elite federal firefighting crew arrived to try to begin containing a fire that destroyed at least 118 structures. All told, about 600 firefighters will be battling the fire some 15 miles west of Fort Collins by Tuesday, said incident commander Bill Hahnenberg.

Asia

Australian coroner rules that dingo took baby in 1980 case

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Settling a notorious 1980 case that split the nation and led to a mistaken murder conviction, an Australian coroner ruled Tuesday that a dingo took a baby from a campsite in the Outback, just as her mother said from the beginning.

The eyes of Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton and her ex-husband, Michael Chamberlain, welled with tears as the findings of the fourth inquest into the disappearance of their 9-week-old daughter, Azaria, were announced in court. Lindy Chamberlain served more than three years in prison for the baby's death, but was later cleared and has always maintained that a wild dog took her.

"We're relieved and delighted to come to the end of this saga," a tearful but smiling Chamberlain-Creighton told reporters outside the court in the northern city of Darwin.

Azaria disappeared from a campsite near Ayers Rock, the red monolith in the Australian desert now known by its Aboriginal name Uluru. The case became famous internationally through the 1988 movie "A Cry in the Dark."

Creighton

Many Australians initially did not believe that a dingo was strong enough to take away the baby. Public opinion swayed harshly against the couple; some even spat on Chamberlain-Creighton and howled like dingoes outside her house.

No similar dingo attack had been documented at the time, but in recent years the wild dogs have been blamed for three fatal attacks on children. Few doubt the couple's story today, but the latest inquest—which the family had fought to get—made it official that Azaria was killed in a dingo attack.

"No longer will Australia be able to say that dingoes are not dangerous and only attack if provoked," Chamberlain-Creighton said before leaving the court with her ex-husband and their three surviving children to collect Azaria's death certificate.

"We live in a beautiful country, but it is dangerous and we would ask all Australians to beware of this and take appropriate precautions," Chamberlain-Creighton said.

Coroner Elizabeth Morris said she "satisfied that the evidence is sufficiently adequate, clear, cogent and exact and that the evidence excludes all other reasonable possibilities" than that the baby was taken by one or more dingoes.

UN: Food supply tenuous for 16M NKoreans

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Millions of North Korean children are not getting the food, medicine or health care they need to develop physically or mentally, leaving an entire generation stunted and malnourished, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Nearly a third of North Korean children under age 5 show signs of stunting, particularly in rural areas where food is scarce, and scores are dying from diarrhea due to a lack of access to clean water, sanitation and electricity, the agency said. Hospitals are spotless but bare; few have running water or power, and drugs and medicine are in short supply, the agency said in a detailed update on the humanitarian situation in North Korea.

People in the capital, Pyongyang, live in relative comfort, but the situation in the rest of the country is more dire. About 16 million North Koreans—two-thirds of the country—rely on twice-a-month government rations, the report said. And there are no signs the government will undertake the long-term structural reforms needed to spur economic growth, it said.

North Korea does not produce enough food to feed its 24 million people, and relies on limited purchases of food as well as outside donations to make up the shortfall.

The United Nations called for $198 million in donations for 2012—mostly to help feed the hungry but also to invest in programs designed to mitigate and prevent a chronic food shortage that has resulted in persistent malnutrition among North Korea's young.

The appeal comes at a delicate time for North Korea, which has sought to put forth an image of stability and unity during the transition to power of the new, young leader, Kim Jong Un. Yet it has begun to publicly acknowledging a severe shortage of food for the first time in years.

"Malnutrition over a generation can have a long-lasting effect on a population in terms of physical growth, cognitive capacity, the ability to learn," said Jerome Sauvage, the U.N.'s Pyongyang-based resident coordinator for North Korea. "The long-term effect of malnutrition can be very severe for a whole generation and on the whole population."

WORLD BRIEFS

Up to 100 feared dead in Afghan earthquake

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—As many as 100 people are feared dead in an earthquake and landslide that buried more than 20 houses in northern Afghanistan on Monday, officials said. Rescuers have so far pulled two women's bodies from the rubble of the landslide in Baghlan province, said provincial Gov. Abdul Majid. The U.N. confirmed one other death and said houses were destroyed across five districts. A massive landslide of mud and rocks buried houses so deep in the remote mountain village of Sayi Hazara that rescuers gave up trying to use shovels to dig through the buried buildings, said Jawed Basharat, a spokesman for the provincial police chief who was part of a team that examined the village after the slide. There were no visible signs of the buildings underneath.

China announces 23 arrests in US gun scheme

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police on Tuesday announced the arrests of 23 people as part of a joint U.S.-Chinese investigation into a gun trafficking ring that smuggled dozens of firearms into the country. The arrests announced by the Ministry of Public Security follow the detention of three men in the United States last month in connection with the scheme. They included Joseph Debose of North Carolina, a staff sergeant in a U.S. National Guard special forces unit, along with two Chinese nationals. Debose was arrested on May 20 in a sting operation when he arrived with another shipment of guns for export to China and had been armed with a loaded .45-caliber pistol, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York.

Minivan hits roadside bomb, killing 5 Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan authorities say a minivan has hit a roadside bomb, killing five civilians including a 3-year-old child. Shahidullah Shahid, who is a spokesman for Wardak province south of Kabul, says the van hit the bomb early Tuesday in Sayd Abad district. Four other civilians and three Afghan soldiers died in another roadside bomb incident Monday evening in the western province of Farah. Ghawisdin, who is the top official in Pusht Rod district, says the soldiers died when their vehicle hit the explosives. He says when local villagers ran to the scene to help, other soldiers wounded in the explosion thought they were under attack. They fired, killing the four.

World

Mubarak's health deteriorates

CAIRO (AP)—Hosni Mubarak's health worsened Monday, with doctors twice having to use a defibrillator on the imprisoned former leader, adding to the tumult in Egypt before this weekend's runoff election for president.

Mubarak, 84, was slipping in and out of consciousness, was suffering from high blood pressure and breathing difficulties, and was in a deep depression, according to security officials at Torah prison where he is serving a life sentence. Doctors there could not find a pulse twice, and used the defibrillator, they said.

The deposed leader, who was being given liquids intravenously, also lost consciousness several times Sunday.

His health crisis came at time of political anxiety in Egypt, with a former prime minister from the Mubarak regime facing an Islamist in a showdown at the ballot box on June 16-17.

"He is causing everyone a headache," said Ahmed Badawi, a liberal activist who participated in last year's Arab Spring uprising that ousted Mubarak. "There are daily rumors that he died and where he is held is also a thorny issue. He is definitely feeding the nervousness we are all living in these days."

Egypt is in the home stretch of a 16-month transitional period overseen by the military council that succeeded him—a time that has seen the rising power of the Islamists, deadly street protests and gross human rights abuses blamed on the generals, including the torture of detainees and trials for civilians in front of military tribunals.

The generals have promised to hand over power to a civilian administration by July 1, about 10 days after the winner of the runoff is announced. The election pits Ahmed Shafiq, Mubarak's last prime minister, against Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood.

US accuses Syria of new tactics, fears massacre

AP
This video image taken from amateur video and broadcast by Bambuser/Homslive shows a series of devastating explosions rocking the central Syrian city of Homs, Syria, Monday, June 11, 2012.

BEIRUT (AP)—The United States accused the Syrian government of using "new horrific tactics" Monday, as U.N. observers reported Syrian helicopters were firing on rebellious areas and concerns mounted that civilians were trapped in besieged cities.

Violence in Syria has spiked in recent weeks, as both sides ignore an internationally brokered cease-fire that was supposed to go into effect April 12 but never took hold.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland expressed concern about reports the regime "may be organizing another massacre" in Latakia province, where U.N. monitors have been impeded.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, Nuland warned, "People will be held accountable."

Activists reported more than 50 people killed across Syria on Monday, with clashes between military forces and rebel fighters in Homs, Idlib and Latakia provinces. The death toll and the online videos were impossible to independently verify.

According to videos posted online, fireballs of orange flame and black rubble exploded in the air as waves of shells pounded residential buildings in the central city of Homs Monday. The sounds of shells whooshed through the sky amid sporadic machine gun fire.

Syrian soldiers chased down and killed rebels who set fire to one of their tanks in a farming area close to the Orontes river in the Idlib province, said Rami Abdul-Rahman of the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which uses a network of sources on the ground.

Russian police search protest leaders' apartments

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian investigators have searched the apartments of several protest leaders and called them in for questioning Tuesday, making it difficult if not impossible for them to lead a mass demonstration against President Vladimir Putin planned for the June 12 national holiday.

It was a sudden escalation in pressure on the opposition, but tensions already were running high.

Putin has taken a harder line against the opposition since returning to the presidency in May, seemingly no longer willing to tolerate the peaceful protests that drew tens of thousands of people onto the streets of Moscow ahead of the March election that handed him a third term.

A measure Putin signed into law on Friday will raise fines on those who take part in unauthorized protests 150-fold, to nearly the average annual salary in Russia. Tuesday's protest has city approval, but any actions that violate the agreed upon location and timeframe could give police a pretext to make arrests.

The top Twitter hashtag in Russia on Monday was "Welcome to the Year `37," a reference to the height of the purges under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Opposition activists predict the government crackdown on dissent and the anger it has fueled will bring out more protesters on Tuesday, a patriotic holiday called Russia Day. The holiday marks the day in 1990 when Russian lawmakers declared independence from the Soviet Union by giving supremacy to Russian laws over Soviet legislation.

The Kremlin, however, appears to be betting that the tough measures will frighten away the young white-collar professionals whose new political activism has posed the first serious challenge to Putin since he came to power in 2000.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. is "deeply concerned by the apparent harassment of Russian political opposition figures on the eve of the planned demonstrations on June 12."

Focus

“I couldn’t go because the army is supposed to protect people, but all this army does is protect Assad.”

AP

In this Tuesday, May 22, 2012 photo, Syrians Abdel-Rahman Qassem, left, and his friend Maher pose for a photo on a street in Tripoli, Lebanon. The two men are among a growing group of young Syrians who have avoided the country’s mandatory military service, fearing they’ll be forced to kill other Syrians in the country’s ongoing uprising.

Syria crisis causes spike in draft-dodging

By BEN HUBBARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP)—Approaching his 18th birthday, Hamza, a merchant sailor from Syria, resigned himself to the fate awaiting him when he reached adulthood: A year and a half of mandatory military service.

Then last year, the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad erupted with demonstrations calling for change. Troops dispatched by Syria’s autocratic regime shot protesters and shelled opposition towns, killing thousands of civilians.

That altered the plan for Hamza, and for a growing number of young Syrians who are dodging the draft out of fear that military service will force them to kill their countrymen—or get killed themselves.

“I couldn’t go because the army is supposed to protect people, but all this army does is protect Assad,” said Hamza, now a wispy-bearded 19-year-old with thick biceps from his work at sea. He fled Syria this year to Tripoli, a city on Lebanon’s Mediterranean coast. Unable to work, he lives in hiding in a small apartment here with six other draft-dodgers.

Young Syrians have long avoided the draft by traveling abroad, cooking up medical excuses or using connections and bribes to get their names off the rolls. But anti-regime activists in and outside Syria say the number has shot up during the 15-month conflict that the U.N. says has killed more than 9,000 people.

Some hide out in opposition areas in Syria, avoiding checkpoints where they could be jailed or conscripted. Others flee the country, opting, at least for now, for an impoverished existence far from their families.

The extent of all this is hard to gauge since the Syrian government does not comment on its military. But in a hint that the army is under strain, Assad issued an amnesty this month: He gave draft-dodgers inside the country 90 days to report for duty without punishment, and 120 days to those abroad.

The government has not said how many have accepted the offer.

So far, the drop in conscripts has not noticeably lessened the state’s advantage over the opposition Free Syrian Army, largely because draftees are less committed than professional soldiers.

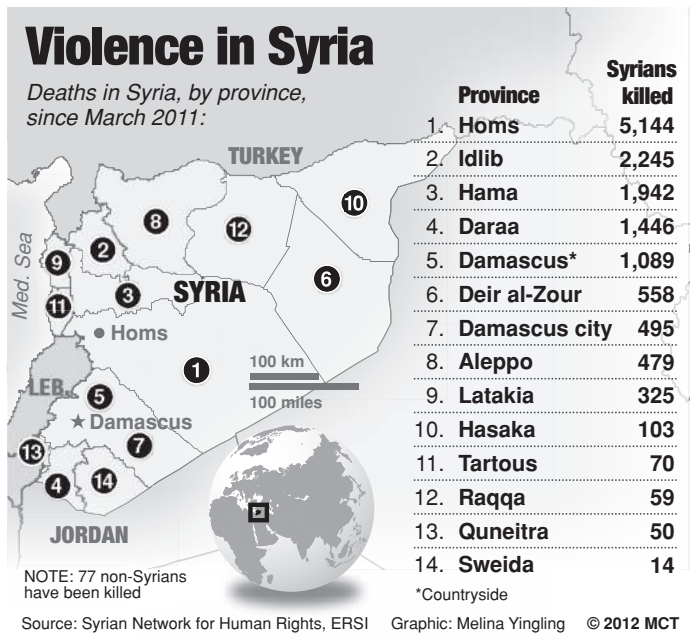
“The guys they call up now are not the guys who are going to stick by them,” said Joseph Holliday, an analyst at the Institute for the Study of War who is studying the Syrian army. “Anyone they can get to fight for them loyally is already taking part.”

Others warn that efforts to replace draft-dodgers with regime loyalists will exacerbate sectarian strife. The opposition is mostly Sunni Muslim, while Assad’s regime and security forces give outsized power to Assad’s sect, the Alawites.

Both sides use sectarian appeals to rally their forces, raising the risk that Syria’s violence could mirror that which has torn apart its neighbors Lebanon and Iraq in recent decades.

“This revolution, which is turning into a civil war along sectarian lines, is only going to become more sectarian as time goes on,” said Syria expert Joshua Landis at the University of Oklahoma.

The slaughter of more than 100 people two weeks ago in the Sunni area of Houla raised the specter of sectarian massacres, with local activists accusing Alawite thugs of killing villagers at close range after heavy government shelling. The U.N. condemned the killings but did not overtly blame the regime.



	Province	Syrians killed
1.	Homs	5,144
2.	Idlib	2,245
3.	Hama	1,942
4.	Daraa	1,446
5.	Damascus*	1,089
6.	Deir al-Zour	558
7.	Damascus city	495
8.	Aleppo	479
9.	Latakia	325
10.	Hasaka	103
11.	Tartous	70
12.	Raqqa	59
13.	Quneitra	50
14.	Sweida	14

Draft-dodgers particularly hope to avoid getting caught up in this type of violence.

“Even if you support the government, you know the army is killing people, so given the choice to go or not, you won’t go,” said Rami Jarrah, who has four draft-dodgers in his office at the Activists News Association in Cairo.

Standard military service is 18 months for a man over 18 who is not an only son. Only sons don’t serve. University and technical school students can delay their service and do slightly less time.

Syrians born abroad can pay $500 not to serve, and those with residency in other countries can pay $4,000 to $5,000, depending on their location.

But healthy, Syrian-born men living at home have no way out.

Such was the fate of one of Jarrah’s colleagues, a 24-year-old from Banias, who graduated from university just before the uprising began. He bribed the draft office for another short-term student exemption but was told last October that he had to serve.

“They said there was no way out of it because of what is going on, so I left the country,” he said, declining to give his name to protect his family in Syria. Others, like Hamza, agreed to have only their first names published.

Like many draft-dodgers, he said his older relatives had served and that he would have too in normal times.

“But now the army is killing its own people, so you have to refuse to go,” he said.

Most draft-dodger exiles say they won’t return to Syria until the regime falls, and many won’t renew expired passports, fearing their embassies will confiscate them until they report for duty.

This leaves them stranded abroad, sometimes as risk of arrest and deportation.

Maher, a roommate of Hamza, dragged his four-year university program out to eight years to avoid the military, but was told last year when he tried to renew his passport that he had to enlist. Weeks later, he fled to Lebanon, afraid the military would make him kill other Syrians.

“How can an army that was built to fight Israel and liberate the Golan Heights be the same one that is now killing its own people?” said Maher, 27.

Lebanon has close ties to Syria, and many Syrian dissidents fear harassment or arrest. The U.S. Embassy in Lebanon said recently it was “deeply troubled by reports of disappearances, arrests and intimidation of Syrians in Lebanon undertaken by the Syrian regime and its supporters.”

“Refugees, dissenters, and deserters who renounce violence should be protected,” it said.

Even some Syrians who can legally avoid the draft now refuse to.

Maher’s friend Abdel-Rahman Qassem, 21, lived for years in the United Arab Emirates and planned to establish residency there and buy his way out.

“That was before the revolution,” he said. “But when it started, I stopped trying because I knew the money would go to the regime, so I wouldn’t pay.”

Not all draft dodgers are active in the anti-Assad struggle, but many said they now spend most of their time trying to help the opposition in Syria.

“If I had a way to do it, I would join the Free Syrian Army,” Qassem said. “At least that way I’d feel I’m serving my country.”

Campus Life

Report: More students taking science, math

MIAMI (AP)—More high school students are enrolling in math and science classes and seeking online learning opportunities. Fewer want or are able to find jobs while in school.

Those are just some of the changes under way at the nation's high schools in how students are learning and what they are doing with their extra time, according to a report released Thursday by the U.S. Education Department.

The annual "Condition of Education" report said there has been a marked increase over the last two decades in the percent of high school graduates who had taken calculus, from 7 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 2009. Overall, the percentage enrolling in math and science courses increased in all subjects except algebra I, a class many students now take in middle school.

Yet while more are enrolling, the report also states that scores have largely stagnated: Seventeen-year-old students performed neither significantly better nor worse on a national math and reading assessment than they did in the early 1970s. Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress test in science found just 1 percent of high school seniors scored at the highest achievement level in 2009.

Three decades ago, the Department of Education released its landmark report, "A Nation at Risk," which raised concerns about academic achievement and called for students to take three years of math and science.

MCT

Kim Crosby helps student, Keegan Ehler, 14, right, with math assignment at Waukesha STEM Academy, April 17, 2012, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Other students pictured are Shawn Ge, 14, left and Riley McCormick, 14, front left with back to camera.

Nancy Songer, a professor of science education and learning technologies at the University of Michigan, said that once high school students finish their math and reading requirements, there is a noticeable drop in the number that pursue courses in those subjects as an elective.

"Even if we are seeing some bubbles of improvement in enrollment, we are still dramatically under-enrolled compared to what we will need in the future," Songer said.

In other subjects scores have also stalled: Seniors have performed only slightly better in U.S. history and slightly worse in geography on recent national assessments.

How students are receiving instruction is undergoing a significant change. Whereas 220,000 students were enrolled in distance education courses a decade ago, over 1.3 million were taking them in the 2009-10 school year. Those courses are usually online, and can be done at home or in class.

"There's really been a big shift in how these courses are delivered," Jack Buckley, commissioner for the National Center for Education Statistics, said in an interview Thursday.

Meanwhile, a substantial drop has been seen in the number of high schools students who are working. In 1990, 32 percent had a job. Two decades later, just 16 percent did. Buckley said the decline can be attributable to a variety of factors, including the recent economic downtown, during which jobs previously occupied by high school students and other young adults were taken by adults with more experience.

The report also described a number of others changes, including: A huge expansion in public school enrollment in states like Arizona and Nevada that is expected to continue over the next decade; a decrease in the number of children receiving special education services; more teachers with college degrees, and a higher percentage of school principals who are female.

Experts: Remedial college classes need fixing

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP)—Each year, an estimated 1.7 million U.S. college students are steered to remedial classes to catch them up and prepare them for regular coursework. But a growing body of research shows the courses are eating up time and money, often leading not to degrees but student loan hangovers.

The expense of remedial courses, which typically cost students the same as regular classes but don't fulfill degree requirements, run about $3 billion annually, according to new research by Complete College America, a Washington-based national nonprofit working to increase the number of students with a college degree.

The group says the classes are largely failing the nation's higher education system at a time when student-loan debt has become a presidential campaign issue. Meanwhile, lawmakers in at least two states have pushed through changes and numerous institutions are redesigning the courses.

"Simply putting (students) in three levels of remedial math is really taking their money and time with no hope of success," said Stan Jones, president of Complete College America.

The group's research shows just 1 in 10 remedial students graduate from community colleges within three years and a little more than a third complete bachelor's degrees in six years. Yet the classes are widespread, with more than 50 percent of students entering two-year colleges and nearly 20 percent of those entering four-year universities put in at least one remedial course, the report said.

"At the end of the day if we could say that we are getting more students to graduate, particularly those coming into college without the requisite skills, the investment we have now is worth it," said Bruce Vandal, director of postsecondary education for the Denver-based Education Commission of the States, a nonpartisan group that researches education policy. "I think the fact that we aren't getting that result is why legislators and policymakers are up in arms and rightfully so."

The research comes as the cost of a college education continues to grow. The College Board said last fall that the average in-state tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose an additional $631, or about 8 percent, compared with a year ago. The annual cost of a full credit load has passed $8,000—an all-time high.

Legislation passed earlier this month in Kansas prohibits four-year universities from using state funds to provide remedial courses.

Beth Gulley, an associate English professor who teaches remedial writing at the 22,000-student Johnson County Community College in northeast Kansas, acknowledges the remediation statistics are "pretty dismal." But she noted it sometimes takes students longer to graduate than the span of time the statistics track.

"I think there is lots of hope," she said.

Take her assistant Brandon True, who dropped a remedial math class twice before completing it and College Algebra. Now 23, he is taking a calculus-heavy class for aspiring video game designers and preparing to transfer to a four-year institution.

"I was terrified," he recalled of his earlier math struggles. Because of those initial struggles problems, he feels like he truly understands the remedial writing students he helps. "I think they choke. It's scary."

Research shows placement exams routinely misplace students in remedial courses, and colleges would do so far less often if they also examined high school transcripts, said Davis Jenkins, a senior researcher at the Community College Research Center at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York.

True knows the limitations of placement exams firsthand. He went from being identified as needing remedial writing help the first time he took the test to qualifying for the gifted writing program the second time.

The classes are being rethought as well. Jenkins recommends doing away with the one-size-fits-all college algebra requirement and having math classes tailored to a few broad areas of study. For instance, those studying history, law or psychology might take a math class focused more on statistics.

"It just kills their desire for learning," Jenkins said, noting that some students are being placed in classes that make them basically redo middle school prealgebra. "There really is a stigma, so it is clear that we need to rethink it."

The Complete College America report also says research shows half or more of remedial students would be better off being placed in required classes and having the schools building in extra help, such as tutors or more frequent class meetings.

The report said institutions that have used those approaches have seen their unprepared students succeed at the same rates as their college-ready peers. Legislation passed earlier this month in Connecticut allows underprepared students to take full-credit, college-level courses with built-in supports, such as extended instruction, extra tutoring and mandatory labs.

Student Academy Awards honor 10 from US schools

By BRYAN ALEXANDER
USA TODAY

A Florida mother who turned to filmmaking after giving birth to her third child was one of 10 U.S. students honored for excellence at the 39th Student Academy Awards on Saturday night in Beverly Hills.

Heather Burky, from the Art Institute of Jacksonville (Fla.), took a prize in the documentary section for Lost Country, which looks at three Cuban expatriates who fought Fidel Castro.

Burky was 33 and single when she gave birth to her third child and decided to make a drastic career change from property management. And Oprah Winfrey played a big part.

"I was watching Oprah and she said you have to change your own circumstances. At the time, I was pretty unhappy with my life," says Burky, now 34. "At first I cried, since I was hormonal. And then I decided to go back to school and to study film. People thought I was crazy. I had a newborn.

"Now people tell me this was what I born to do," she says.

Her award marks the first time a student from the Art Institute of Jacksonville has been honored in the annual competition organized by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which administers the annual Academy Awards. The goal of the student awards is to support excellence in filmmaking for the up-and-coming generation.

Past winners have included Pixar's John Lasseter and Pete Docter, director Robert Zemeckis, Spike Lee and South Park's Trey Parker. Recipients have earned 43 Oscar nominations and have won or shared eight Academy Awards. Julian Higgins, who won a gold medal last year, went on to direct an episode of House in the show's final season.

Gold medal winners received cash grants of $5,000; silver, $3,000; and bronze, $2,000. Among the presenters at the event at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater: Laura Dern, Cuba Gooding Jr., Greg Kinnear and Mena Suvari.

Winners of the 39th Student Academy Awards:

ANIMATION

- *Eyrie*, David Wolter, California Institute of the Arts (Valencia)
- *The Jockstrap Raiders*, Mark Nelson, University of California-Los Angeles
- *My Little Friend*, Eric Prah, Ringling College of Art and Design (Sarasota, Fla.)

DOCUMENTARY

- *Dying Green*, Ellen Tripler, American University (Washington, D.C.)
- *Hiro: A Story of Japanese Internment*, Keiko Wright, New York University
- *Lost Country*, Heather Burky, Art Institute of Jacksonville (Fla.)

NARRATIVE

- *Nani*, Justin Tipping, American Film Institute (Los Angeles)
- *Narcocorrido*, Ryan Prows, American Film Institute (Los Angeles)
- *Under*, Mark Raso, Columbia University (New York)

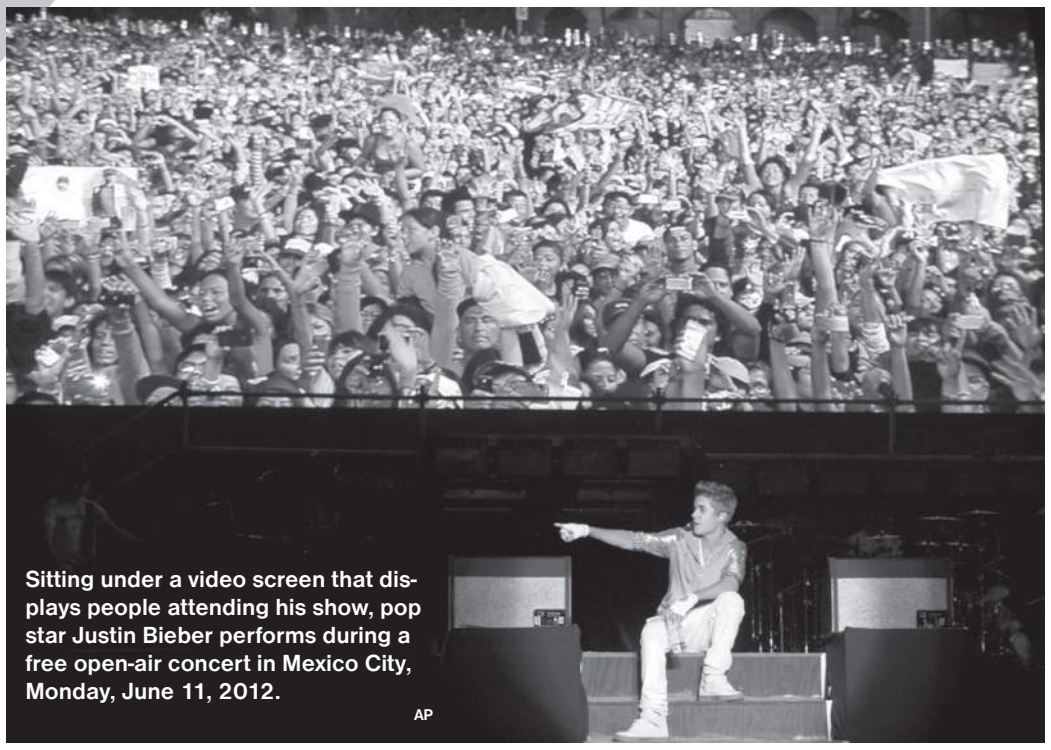
ALTERNATIVE

- *The Reality Clock*, Amanda Tasse, University of Southern California

Life & Style

Mexico City's main plaza jammed for Bieber concert

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Thousands of "tween" girls jamming a vast square with their parents screamed in unison when teen superstar Justin Bieber appeared on stage for his free concert Monday night, an event that was expected to draw 200,000 people to the historic center of Mexico's capital.



Sitting under a video screen that displays people attending his show, pop star Justin Bieber performs during a free open-air concert in Mexico City, Monday, June 11, 2012. AP

Bieber opened with his hit song "Baby," while his adoring fans filling the city's main plaza sang along or shouted "Justin! Justin! Justin!"

"Mexico City, there is a lot of people today!" Bieber told the crowd. "Every one of you is my biggest fan"

Dressed in white jeans and a gray T-shirt he took off to reveal a white T-shirt, the singer wore neon yellow tennis shoes and was accompanied by five dancers in neon colors. Four giant screens showed parts of his music videos to the crowd of mainly girls and their parents, who braved a light, intermittent rain during the concert.

The crowd went wild when Bieber asked a girl onto the stage, gave her a bouquet of flowers and sang "One Less Lonely Girl" into her ear. The girl didn't stop crying.

The gray and reddish stones of the plaza were covered in a sea of purple as the mainly 10- to 14-year-old crowd paid homage to what is reported to be Bieber's favorite color.

At a news conference before the concert, the teen star said there is no artist he would spend days in line waiting for.

"There is no one I admire so much to do something crazy, but if Michael Jackson were here, I would do it for him. So, I do understand the emotion that the girls feel and that makes me feel very honored," Bieber said.

Hundreds at the Zocalo, which was filled to capacity, had to cover themselves in plastic rain capes sold by vendors who came prepared for a rainy evening.

Earlier, girls shuffled through security checkpoints with hats and umbrellas, staking claim to some of the roughly 80,000 spots allocated in the plaza itself. An additional 120,000 or more fans were expected to watch on giant TV screens erected on nearby streets.

Fernanda Gutierrez Aparicio, a 13-year-old seventh grader at a local middle school, said she spent a week camping out with her mother on a nearby street in hopes of being among the first to enter. She said they returned home only to bathe and look after Fernanda's 15-year-old sister, who recently had surgery.

But her mother, Adriana Martinez, 41, gave up on trying to get her daughter into the front rows because of the press of other fans.

"I was really disappointed. When we got up front, people were crushing you, not letting you breathe," Martinez said. Even hours before the concert, "People were jostling each other and it got to the point that you couldn't move."

To Fernanda, it was all worth it—even missing the week of classes leading up to the two-hour concert that was to open with "3BallMTY" and Canadian singer Carly Rae Jepsen.

"I told my teacher that I wasn't going to school and not to expect me in class for a few days, because I was going to be out supporting my idol," Fernanda said.

Fernanda most wanted to hear Bieber sing "That Should Be Me," which pretty much reflects her feelings about the Canadian singer.

"I want to be Selena Gomez, to be with him," she cooed, referring to Bieber's girlfriend.

Authorities said they would have more than 5,000 police on hand, partly to prevent the sort of crush that injured 40 Bieber fans at a free concert in Oslo, Norway, in late May.

"Most of the fans will be between 10 and 17 years old. There will be a lot of girls," said Hector Antunano, a city official. "We are being very careful that the majority of the police are women and we are taking precautions so that there is no rush toward the stage."

Karina Gutierrez, a 13-year-old who uses a wheelchair, was disappointed with the spot authorities assigned to youngsters with disabilities.

She was the first fan to arrive in the special area that was set aside in one of the corners of the plaza, far from the stage.

"Visibility is not very clear from here," Gutierrez said.

She missed school and her parents didn't go to work so the whole family could attend the concert. Gutierrez arrived to the capital Monday morning with her parents and two brothers from the city of Toluca, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) from the capital.

"They wanted to see him from up close," said Gutierrez's father, Juan Manuel Salinas. "It's not fair that they are so far back."

The Zocalo is ringed by some of the most historic structures in the hemisphere: Mexico's Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace and the partially excavated remains of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan.

The plaza was created by the Aztecs in 1325 and was redrawn after the Spanish conquest of 1521. Bieber's performance emptied the sprawling square of its normal population, heavy on tourists, street vendors and political protesters, some of whom agreed grudgingly to clear space for the concert by abandoning an encampment there after negotiations with the city government.

A similar concert in the Zocalo last month by former Beatle Paul McCartney drew an estimated 230,000 people, including President Felipe Calderon. There was no word on whether the president would take his children to see Bieber.

Japan's music sensation: A band chosen by its fans

TOKYO (AP)—AKB48 is not exactly a band. It's an army of girls-next-door, ranked by its fans, and after taking Japan by storm it's getting ready to go global.

More than 60 girls and young women, split into four teams, make up what is arguably Japan's most popular pop group. It performs almost every day, has spawned affiliate groups across the country and has recently given rise to sister mega-groups in China, Taiwan and Indonesia.

AKB48's big event is an annual vote—by almost 1.4 million fans this year—to determine who gets to record their next single, which inevitably becomes a hit. AKB48 raked in more than $200 million in CD sales last year alone.

The girls pranced and sang on stage before last week's vote as their fans waved glow sticks and sang along with familiar tunes. When the winners were announced, the girls cried, bowed deeply, thanked fans for their loyalty and promised to live up to their expectations.

Their singing and dancing aren't always perfect, and the group's ever-changing members are hard to keep track of. But fans are very forgiving to their flaws, and view them as their friends or little sisters, not out-of-reach superstars.

AP

In this June 6, 2012 file photo, Japan's all-girl pop idol group AKB48 member Yuko Oshima reacts after winning the annual AKB48 popularity poll in Tokyo.

There are other mass girl pop groups, such as South Korea's Girls' Generation and KARA, but they are more polished and have a set membership and no elections.

AKB is also much more accessible: Fans can visit their daily shows in downtown Tokyo, attend handshaking events or exchange messages via social networking services. After each show, all the girls line up outside the theater to see off the fans with high fives and exchange a few words.

"You get to watch them grow. In the beginning, perhaps they weren't very good, but then later you see them evolve and shine on stage," said Kao Yi-wen, a Taiwanese student who was among three overseas fans selected to attend last Wednesday's election results at Tokyo's Budokan hall.

Founder and producer Yasushi Akimoto formed the group in 2005, calling them "idols whom you can go and meet in person."

Fans get to see a slice of their ordinary lives by reading each girl's blog. The organizers have also published DVDs showing backstage scenes, including personal struggles and conflicts among teams.

But performances can seem rather orchestrated. As the girls sing and dance in unison, fans follow a set cheering formula, shouting "A! K! B! 48!" Fans know exactly when and what to do—like an experienced Kabuki audience that knows when to yell an actor's name exactly at the right moment during a play.

Now Akimoto is taking the enterprise abroad, creating what are essentially AKB48 clones in Jakarta (JKT48), Taipei (TPE48) and Shanghai (SNH48).

JKT48 is the farthest along. Made up of Indonesian girls and young women, it follows the AKB routine exactly, down to the opening cheers, with the same songs and choreographed dancing. The only difference is the Indonesian translation of most lyrics.

"I wasn't fully confident (AKB) could make sense to anybody but the Japanese, and I thought hurdles would be higher overseas," Akimoto said in a recent TV interview. "But I want to tell everyone that 'let's have confidence.' Today the world is watching Japan, and we are also watching the world."

The main group got its name from the location of its theater in the downtown Tokyo district of Akihabara, sometimes called "Akiba," the birthplace of Japanese "otaku," or geek, subculture dominated by comics, anime and video games.

AKB is still shaped by those influences: Many of its members dress in schoolgirl uniforms like characters in comic books, and some members talk in a cartoon-like, high-pitched sweet voice.

Many Japanese, including self-described "geeks," are not seeking a superstar like Lady Gaga, said Takuro Morinaga, an economist at Dokkyo University who is also an expert of Japan's "otaku" culture.

"They are certainly cute, but not outstanding beauties," he said. "You can probably find one in your classroom, and that's what makes them likable."

Core fans are mostly men, but AKB is gaining a following among teenage girls and older women.

Some critics say they come across as sex objects that encourage men to exploit young women. They sometimes perform in itty-bitty bikinis for video clips or pose for photo books.

But others say they have a positive, hard-working image: They are required to devote themselves to AKB, wash their own laundry and aren't allowed to have boyfriends.

The group initially had three 16-member groups—Team A, Team K and Team B—hence the number 48 in its name. It has since expanded to at least nine sister groups and teams of "interns" around the country—including SKE48, NMB48, and HKT48, representing various cities.

Only people who bought the latest AKB CDs or joined fan clubs are allowed to cast ballots, which can be done online.

People gathered in front of TV screens in downtown Tokyo for last week's election. Morinaga said it "seems to be monitored even more closely than the real elections."

Perfecting the 1980s look in 'Rock of Ages'

By NICOLE SPERLING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Rita Ryack spent several weeks tangling with Tom Cruise's leather pants. The costume designer for the upcoming 1980s-set musical "Rock of Ages" (opening Friday) was instrumental in Cruise's conversion into the fictional rock icon Stacee Jaxx, a self-involved guitar-playing idol in the vein of Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose. The coyote-fur jacket, the jewel-encrusted codpiece and the custom-made cowboy hat did wonders in transforming the normally strait-laced Cruise into a drug-addled performer with more in common with Mick Jagger than with Ethan Hunt.

But it was the hand-stitched pants that proved the most trying component of the outre costume. Every time Cruise performed a rendition of Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar on Me," the pants would stretch out and lose their rocker slickness.

AP

Malin Akerman, left, as Constance Sack and Tom Cruise as Stacee Jaxx in New Line Cinema's rock musical "Rock of Ages," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

"We had a distresser standing by who would hand him his next pair, take the ones Cruise wore, dry them, shrink them up again and re-age them," said Ryack. "We had lots of pairs."

Beyond the Cruise transformation, Ryack was charged with turning Alec Baldwin into an aging hippie, Paul Giamatti into a cheesy music manager and Mary J. Blige into a jumpsuit-wearing '80s diva without making it too costumey, per the instructions of director Adam Shankman ("Hairspray").

"In our first meeting, Adam said very clearly that because the '80s is such an inherently funny costume time, he didn't want the joke of the movie to be the clothes. It's still nuts, but we wanted to do hard rock 'n' roll, not costume rock 'n' roll like the White Stripes and Mötley Crüe. We stuck to a Guns N' Roses look."

Except when it came to Diego Boneta, the aspiring rocker pressured into joining a boy band at the behest of his manager (Giamatti).

Leather was turned primary for Boneta's ridiculous look as a member of the boy band Z-guyeez. "Those were my favorite costumes," said Ryack. "The color-block stuff was so funny and so in opposition to real rock clothes."

New film shows how Houston's death changed Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Grammy Awards producers learned of Whitney Houston's death less than 24 hours before the live telecast, they scrapped parts of the script, added performances and puzzled over how best to honor the Grammy-winning singer who died unexpectedly at age 48.

Host LL Cool J said addressing the Grammy audience at Staples Center after Houston's death was "definitely the most challenging moment I've faced in my career."

He decided to open with a prayer, and producers agreed, though none could recall another network TV event that began as such.

This and other last-minute changes made to the 54th annual Grammy Awards are chronicled in a new documentary, "A Death in the Family: The Show Must Go On," which premiered Monday at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The screening of the 25-minute documentary and 14-minute highlight reel of past Grammy performances was also a not-so-subtle push for Emmy votes.

"We'd love to have you consider us when you vote," said Ken Ehrlich, executive producer of the Grammy Awards for the past 32 years. "We've been nominated before and not won."

He added that executives at CBS, which broadcasts the Grammys, suggested Ehrlich's team produce the documentary, which can be seen on the Grammy.com website and at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

Emmy ballots are due at the end of the month.

The documentary, though it deals with show changes made after Houston's death, isn't a downer.

Ehrlich said that about an hour before he heard about Houston, he'd experienced a career high: Paul McCartney, who was set to close the show, asked if he might perform a Beatles medley from "Abbey Road," and maybe it could include a guitar jam with the likes of Dave Grohl, Joe Walsh and Bruce Springsteen.

The number came together just before Houston's death.

Ehrlich said the magic of that McCartney moment made him feel "like maybe there is a God."

"God said, I'm going to give this to him, but I'm not going to let him get too cocky," the veteran producer said in an interview before the screening.

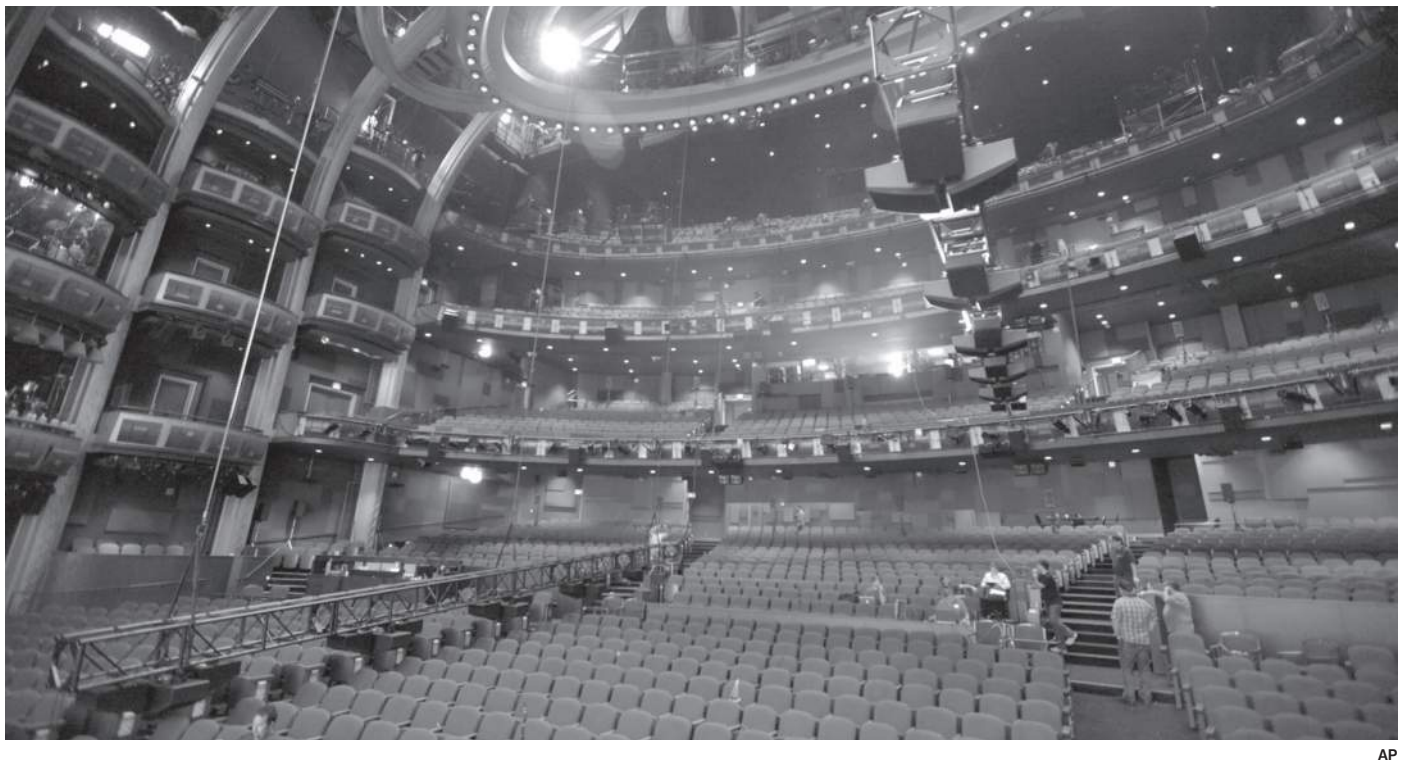
After Houston died, the challenge was to "do something that was respectful to Whitney," Ehrlich said, "that set a tone that also didn't lose the fact that there were thousands of people who were coming to this event because they had done something remarkable this year on their own, and they needed to be treated with respect as well."

The documentary includes interviews with LL Cool J and Jennifer Hudson, who performed a heartfelt tribute to Houston. It also includes rehearsal footage and interviews with Springsteen and Grohl, who said performing alongside McCartney was unforgettable.

Springsteen joked that he had "been waiting since 1964" for the opportunity to play with the former Beatle. Grohl said sharing the stage with such icons was like "looking at Mount Rushmore."

February's Grammy Awards drew nearly 40 million viewers, its second largest audience ever. The biggest Grammy audience—more than 43 million viewers—came in 1984, when Michael Jackson won a record eight awards for "Thriller."

Oscars venue reopens as Dolby Theatre



AP

This undated image released by Dolby Laboratories shows the interior of the new Dolby Theatre as two overhead speaker trusses are lifted into place in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The venue for the Oscars has a new name—and sound.

The posh 3,400-seat theater formerly known as the Kodak Theatre reopened Monday with a new audio-visual system and new signage as the Dolby Theatre. Dolby Laboratories Inc. announced a 20-year deal with Hollywood & Highland Center owner CIM Group last month to rename the theater, which has hosted the Academy Awards since 2002.

The audio-visual technology company outfitted the four-level venue with its Dolby 3D and Dolby Atmos projection and audio systems. Besides the Oscars, the Hollywood theater is home to the Cirque du Soleil production "Iris" and will host the world premiere next Monday of the Disney-Pixar film "Brave," which will be the first feature film released utilizing the Dolby Atmos technology.

"It's an incredible day for us," said Dolby President Kevin Yeaman after a demonstration Monday of the theater's new audio-visual systems. "We've been hard at work coming up with Dolby Atmos and Dolby 3D and looking for a way to tell that story and connect with audiences around the world. When this opportunity came up, we couldn't pass it up."

Unlike Dolby Surround 7.1, which uses different audio channels, Dolby Atmos can render sounds in space by harnessing individual speakers instead of entire speaker arrays. Dolby Atmos also adds overhead speakers, which were installed in the Dolby Theatre on two 50-foot-long trusses that must be removed for the acrobatic acts in "Iris."

CIM Group dropped the Kodak name from the theater ahead of the Oscars earlier this year after a bankruptcy court judge approved the early exit of 131-year-old Eastman Kodak Co. from a 20-year naming rights deal it signed with them in 1999.

The 85th annual Academy Awards are scheduled to be held at the Dolby Theatre on Feb. 24, 2013.

The Band Perry builds global fan base at CMA Fest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Band Perry is working to build an international fan base. They've played shows overseas and have more coming up. But at CMA Music Festival last week, roles were reversed as fans from around the world flocked to their hometown of Nashville.

"We've seen people from Germany, Scandinavia, the U.K," said Reid Perry, before signing autographs at Fan Fair Hall. "So it's like Nashville is the center of the world for a week."

CMA Fest set a new attendance record this year, with 71,000 fans showing up each day. Attendees came from all 50 states and two dozen countries, including Australia, Chile, China, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, South Africa and several places in Europe.

"It's a big goal of ours to try and win the international heart this year," lead singer Kimberly Perry said. "We've been over to the U.K. now twice this year and are headed back over to Europe two more times, once with (Brad) Paisley and once to do a string of our own shows. So it's really exciting to know that country music has footprints across an ocean."

The sibling trio is working on a follow up to the band's self-titled, platinum album, featuring the No. 1 hit "If I Die Young." They are also promoting their single, "Postcard From Paris." This year marked their third CMA Fest as artists and the second time they were asked to play the big stage at LP Field.

With most major country stars in town for CMA Fest, The Band Perry also got to see some of their own favorite artists.

"We are like the biggest fans," said Kimberly. "We are fans first and foremost. I got Blake Shelton's autograph."

"I took a picture with Glen Campbell," added Neil Perry.

"So, we would love to wait in those signing lines, too," said Kimberly with a smile.

Artist Ai Weiwei: China crushes dissenting voices

BEIJING (AP)—Artist Ai Weiwei has again criticized China's leaders as lacking vision and refusing to permit dissenting voices, saying the government's mantra of maintaining stability is merely a ruse to protect illicit benefits and special interests.

The country's best known international artist said he would continue to fight for human rights and freedom of expression in a videotaped message posted Monday on YouTube, which is blocked in China. He said that the form of limited house arrest under which he has lived for months is punishment for his activism.

"Freedom of expression is a very essential condition for me to make any art. Also, it is an essential value for my life. I have to protect this right and also to fight for the possibility," Ai said in the message that was shown at an event in Basel, Switzerland, late Sunday. The event was organized by Germany-based Cinema for Peace Foundation and also saw the screening of Alison Klayman's documentary "Ai Weiwei Never Sorry."

Chinese authorities view Ai as a troublemaker. They detained him for three months last year and his design company was ordered to pay 15 million yuan ($2.4 million) in back taxes and fines. He is appealing.

Since then, he has been refused permission to travel and is under constant surveillance, although he still frequently criticizes the government on Twitter, another website that is blocked in China but accessible to tech-savvy citizens.

Ai said self-interest is China's only political ideology and the "people in office just try to maintain so-called stability to protect their own profit, or their own interest. They have to crush other voices. There's no real communication or discussion."

The Internet can help boost transparency, while art can stir critical thinking, he said.

"I think art is a very important weapon to achieve human freedom," Ai said.

Ai's detention has only burnished his fame and his handmade porcelain "Sunflower Seeds" sold at auction last month for $782,500, a record for the artist.

AP

This April 1, 2012 file photo shows Deena Nicole Cortese, a cast member on the MTV reality series "Jersey Shore" posing for photographers during the MIPTV, International Television Programme Market, in Cannes, southern France.

NJ police: Deena of 'Jersey Shore' impeded traffic

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Police are releasing details about the arrest of "Jersey Shore" cast member Deena Cortese in the town where the MTV show is based. The 25-year-old Cortese, of New Egypt, was arrested for disorderly conduct on Sunday afternoon in Seaside Heights.

Detective Steve Korman says Cortese and other cast members were in a Mexican restaurant before Cortese went into the roadway and began dancing and impeding traffic.

Korman says an officer saw Cortese and said she appeared to be intoxicated. She was taken to police headquarters, processed and released to her mother.

Cortese could face a fine up to $500 and up to 30 days in jail.

An MTV spokesman declined to comment on the series because it is currently in production. An airdate for the sixth season hasn't been announced.

Oprah interviews Kardashian-Jenner clan Sunday

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey talks to eight, count 'em, eight Kardashian-Jenner family members in an interview set to air on Winfrey's cable channel, OWN.

Winfrey talked to Kris and Bruce Jenner and their combined offspring at their Hidden Hills, Calif., home. Also on hand were Khloe Kardashian's husband, Lamar Odom, and Kourtney Kardashian's boyfriend, Scott Disick, OWN said Monday.

The interview will air 8 p.m. EDT Sunday on "Oprah's Next Chapter." It will be followed at 9 p.m. EDT with the second part of Winfrey's interview with rapper Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.

Pa. symphony ends YouTube contest without winner

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has chosen to not name a winner in its nationwide online concerto competition.

Music director Manfred Honeck announced the first-of-its-kind contest in February. Honeck and symphony officials came up with the idea in hopes of finding talented musicians who were not already represented by talent agencies and who, otherwise, might not have come to the symphony's attention.

Orchestra official Robert Moir said Monday that not selecting a winner "was a very difficult decision," but officials expect to try the experiment again and would apply lessons learned from this attempt.

"This is the first time that anybody's ever tried to do this. We had no idea what we would find," said Moir, the symphony's senior vice president of artistic planning and audience engagement.

"Our goal was to discover an unknown talent performing at the level of soloists with the Pittsburgh Symphony. We did not find that," he said. "We did, however, find some wonderful young musicians who we encouraged as strongly as we could to continue their growth. We will follow developments in their young careers with great interest."

ABC's Roberts has blood, bone marrow disorder

NEW YORK (AP)—Five years after being treated for breast cancer, "Good Morning America" co-host Robin Roberts has a new health fight on her hands.

Roberts said Monday she is beginning chemotherapy treatment for myelodysplastic syndrome, or MDS, a blood and bone marrow disease once known as preleukemia. She is expected to get a bone marrow transplant sometime this fall.

Her older sister, Sally Ann Roberts, an anchor for WWL-TV in New Orleans, is considered a perfect match to donate marrow and said she will do so.

"My doctors tell me I'm going to beat this, and I know it's true," Roberts, 51, said on the show Monday.

Sally Ann Roberts said she's thankful she has marrow her sister can use and that she can assist in her treatment.

"I'm just so very grateful that I did match her because there are many, many people right now who are dying for a match and have no one in their family who are eligible," Sally Ann Roberts said.

She said her family is now encouraging everyone to sign up to be donors.

"The wonderful thing about being a donor is that it takes so very little," Sally Ann Roberts said. "I will go through a physical and when ... the doctors deem it's time, I will be prepared with some injections to separate the marrow from the blood, then simply go through something like dialysis. I may miss a week of work, if that much."

AP

This image released by ABC shows host Robin Roberts, center, with her sister Sally-Ann Roberts, right and ABC News' Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America" Monday, June 11, 2012, after Robin Roberts announced she has been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a blood and bone marrow disease once known as preleukemia.

Robin Roberts also hopes that attention paid to her diagnosis will encourage people to donate bone marrow that might help someone else with the disease.

She developed MDS as a result of her breast cancer treatment—a manner of transmission so unusual it affects only a few hundred people per year, said Dr. Richard Besser, ABC's medical correspondent.

The prognosis for many MDS patients is dire, but that's largely due to the disease primarily affecting people over age 60, Besser said. Between Roberts being young and healthy, and having already located a good donor in her sister, Besser said things look promising for her.

Roberts has contributed to "Good Morning America" since 1995, and was named co-anchor in 2005. The former Southeastern Louisiana basketball star worked at ESPN for 15 years.

She had blood tests that disclosed the MDS after feeling fatigued, or more fatigued than even someone who had to get up for a 7 a.m. show every weekday might expect, Besser said.

She learned of her diagnosis on the same day that "Good Morning America" beat "Today" for a week in the ratings for the first time in more than 16 years, Roberts said. On a day some of her bone marrow was extracted for testing, Roberts learned she had landed an interview with President Barack Obama where the president revealed his support for gay marriage.

"The combination of landing the biggest interview of my career and having a drill in my back reminds me that God only gives us what we can handle and that it helps to have a good sense of humor when we run smack into the adversity of life," she said.

Couple headed for the altar trips over boyfriend's fling

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Wally," and I have been friends for several years, and a couple for nearly two. He recently brought up the subject of marriage, and we agreed that we are likely altar-bound.

Only one thing gives me pause. A few months ago, Wally got plastered and had a fling with a female friend. He regretted it immediately and said it was what made him realize I am "The One." (He is getting help for his drinking now.)

The problem is, the woman is still pursuing him. She buys him gifts or brings him vegan meals. He has asked her repeatedly to stop, to no avail. Because Wally is a vegetarian and I'm not, I suspect she's trying to prove she would be a better partner for him.

I have asked Wally to cut off contact with her, but he won't. He feels bad for her because she has few friends and lives in an isolated little town. What do you suggest I do?

UNWILLING TO SHARE

DEAR UNWILLING TO SHARE: Raise the subject of marriage with Wally again, and tell him his continued contact with the woman he cheated with is hurtful to you and a threat to your relationship. Ask how he would feel if you continued to see and accept gifts from a man you'd had a drunken fling with. If he says he wouldn't be thrilled, perhaps he'll be able to understand your reaction to what's going on. If he says he'd be fine with it, then Wally isn't the man for you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old niece, "Amelia," is a beautiful young girl. She has only two flaws—she lies constantly and she's boy-crazy. I have to listen to my sister talk on and on about how hard it is to trust her. My sister and brother-in-law have set many rules and limits for my niece. I think her punishments for breaking rules fit the crime—grounding, having things taken away, etc.

Amelia knows she can't have a boyfriend until she's 16. Lately, she keeps trying to get boys' phone numbers and meet with them. She has also been caught sexting three times and lying about it. As her punishment this time, my sister and her husband shaved Amelia's head. I am shocked and devastated for my niece. I think it was extremely inappropriate.

When I try to talk to my sister about my concerns, she tells me she had no choice because her daughter had so many warnings. I don't know what to do. I think my niece will need counseling. My sister says I am overreacting. Am I? Or did she?

WORRIED AUNT IN UTAH

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: Amelia's parents went off the deep end. What was done to her was awful, and you are not overreacting. Instead of shaving her daughter's head, your sister should have tried to understand why she is lying and desperately seeking attention from boys.

If I ever heard of a family in need of family therapy, it is your sister's. Love, attention and less draconian punishments are what Amelia needs, not months of public shaming.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband committed suicide 20 years ago. He left a note, but I never shared it with our children, as they were very young at the time. They are all happy, successful adults. Should I share the note with them? I still have it.

ANONYMOUS DOWN SOUTH

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Your children are probably curious about why their father chose to end his life. Let them know the note exists, share it with them if they would like to see it and answer any questions they may have. They have a right to know.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby —Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

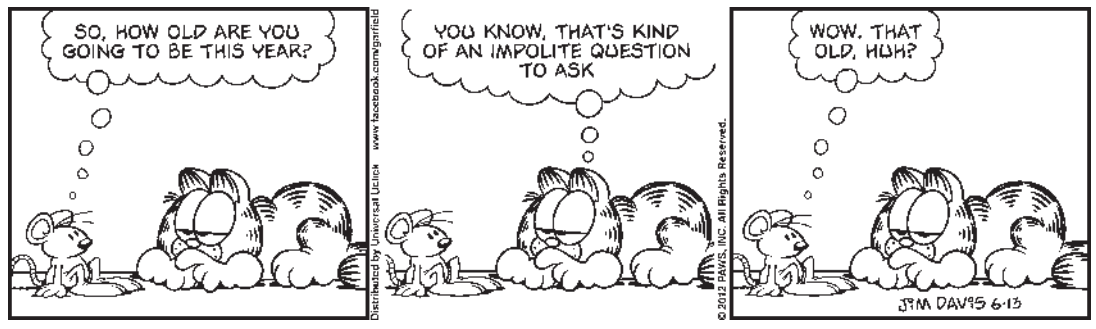
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD, WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM? IS IT TRUE A STORK LEAVES THEM SWADDLED IN A BUNDLE ON THE FRONT STEP?
IN MOST CASES, YES, BUT YOU WERE UNCEREMONIOUSLY DUMPED DOWN THE CHIMNEY BY A BIG, HAIRY PTERODACTYL.
COOL!
EXPLAINS A LOT, DOESN'T IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


SO, HOW OLD ARE YOU GOING TO BE THIS YEAR?
YOU KNOW, THAT'S KIND OF AN IMPOLITE QUESTION TO ASK
WOW. THAT OLD, HUH?
JIM DAVIS 6-13
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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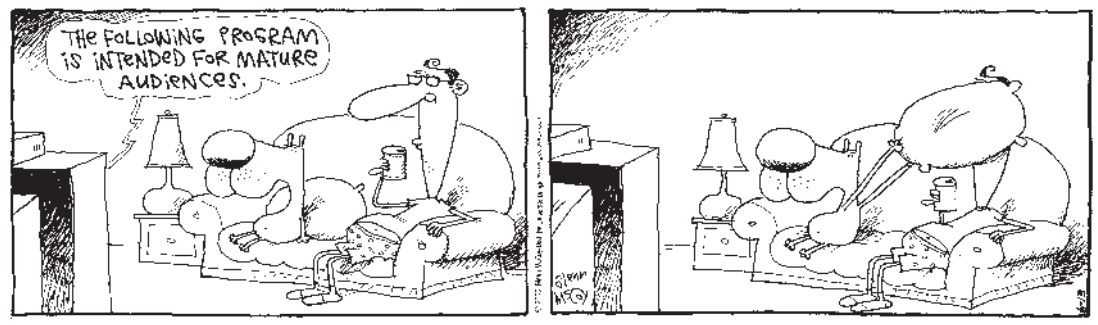
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
PARTY SEEMS TO BE GOING PRETTY WELL.
LOTS OF LAUGHTER AND MUSIC.
A PERFECT DANCE PARTY.
LET'S GET THE CAKE.
RIGHT HERE.
THIS SAYS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KOOTY!"
I KNEW IT! I ALWAYS KNEW IT!
MARCH 6-13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

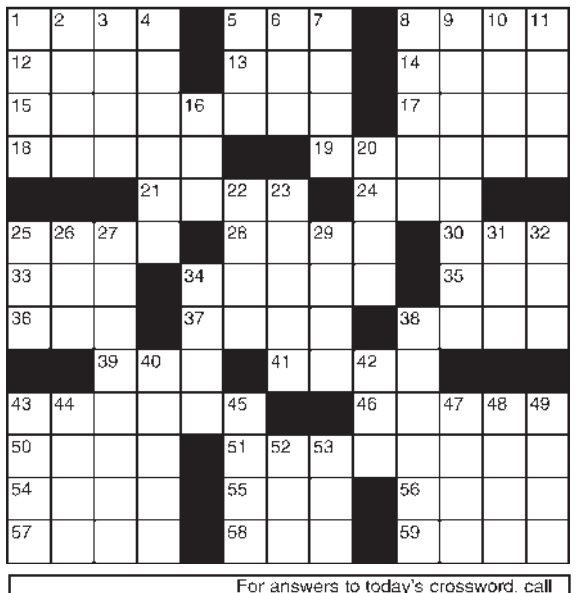
ACROSS
1 Church section
5 Pump up the volume
8 Blue hue
12 Columns' crossers
13 Grazing land
14 Crooned
15 One use for a GPS
17 Tresses
18 Boredom
19 Volcanic spewings
21 Faucet problem
24 Squid squirt
25 Mexican money
28 Transaction
30 Eisenhower
33 X rating?
34 Point of view
35 Yuletide beverage
36 — carte
37 Novice
38 Exchange premium
39 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
41 Winter forecast
43 Two-piece suit
46 Marconi's medium
50 Actress Falco
51 Controversial oil-extraction method
54 Landlord's due
55 Enjoyment
56 Always
57 Lady —
58 Still
59 Stupefy

DOWN
1 Johnson of comedy
2 Smutty matter
3 Graceful bird
4 Portuguese pre-euro money
5 Foreman foe
6 Chaps
7 Senate staffer
8 Pale
9 Duck-speak
10 One
11 Taj Mahal city
16 White wine cocktail
20 Leave at the altar
22 One way to stand by
23 Bosc and Bartlett
25 Sch. org.
26 Conger, for one
27 Between-meals activity
29 Soon
31 Pond carp
32 Id counterpart
34 Musial of baseball
38 Blew reveille
40 Michelangelo masterwork
42 Killer whale
43 Floating ice mass
44 Notion
45 Unsettled
47 Prima donna
48 Don Juan's mother
49 Shrek, e.g.
52 Regret
53 Pismire

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	U	L	L	■	L	A	G	■	M	I	S	S
A	R	E	A	■	A	I	R	■	I	D	E	A
G	L	A	D	I	O	L	A	■	L	O	R	N
■	■	■	D	O	S	■	B	A	L	L	A	D
A	S	P	E	N	■	A	B	L	E	■	■	■
G	E	A	H	■	G	L	A	M	R	O	C	K
O	A	R	■	B	R	A	G	S	■	R	O	E
G	L	A	C	I	E	R	S	■	T	A	P	E
■	■	■	I	T	F	M	■	P	O	I	Y	P
T	R	E	B	E	K	■	S	A	W	■	■	■
H	E	R	O	■	G	L	A	S	N	O	S	T
R	A	I	L	■	D	A	F	■	I	R	O	N
U	L	N	A	■	D	Y	E	■	E	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer 6-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kat Dennings, 26; Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, 26; Chris Evans, 31; Tim Allen, 59.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change and welcome any opportunity to travel, network or work with interesting people. You will have plenty of good ideas, but participation will be required to help you launch some of your plans. This can be a fun-filled year if you are intent on being a contributor. Love is in the stars. Your numbers are 11, 14, 23, 28, 33, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let worry get to you when all that's required is a couple of personal changes. Distance yourself from anyone who is holding you back. Arguing will be pointless when change is required. Uncertainty is the enemy. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Consider carefully before you take a step forward. Making an impulsive move will cost you emotionally. Someone is likely to give you false information if you appear gullible. You can listen, but be fully aware of your options. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't volunteer information. Follow through with your plans. Think ahead and allow room for improvement. Don't limit the possibilities by worrying about what others think. Don't let temptation lead you astray or upset your budget. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick to the rules and everything will work out. You will come up with interesting ideas if you let your imagination and creativity shine, but figure out how much it will cost before you take a leap of faith and jump into something new. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll drum up all the assistance you need to move forward with your plans. Altering your routine or making changes to the way you live will bring positive results. Visiting unfamiliar places will be inspiring. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Learn from your experiences. Not everyone will be trustworthy regarding what you are being asked to contribute. Read between the lines before you sign on the dotted line. Protect your reputation and what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take control and own whatever skills you have, and people will want what you are offering. Communication will help you expand and reach your goals. Change is upon you, personally and professionally. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You really need a boost. Push yourself into doing something that entices you. An investment may not end up being what it originally appears, but with a little adjustment, you can make it work. Networking will lead to greater options. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Partnerships should be your prime concern. Whether you are dealing with someone personally or professionally, establish boundaries that allow greater equality. Don't let anyone goad you into making changes that don't suit your lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set your goals to include finding out more about a project or talent you want to pursue. Interaction with younger or older people will help you gain a unique perspective on something you want to embrace. Don't let impulsiveness be your downfall. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Improvements that influence you personally or improve your finances should be a priority. You have plenty to gain if you make alterations to your surroundings or lifestyle. Love and romance will bring positive changes and greater stability. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get involved in a no-win situation. Focus on what you can do, and spend time with people who share your values. Create a peaceful environment that will soothe you rather than disrupt your plans and your future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are exciting. You are determined to get your way and do your own thing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	1	9					
9				3		4	5	
5			2		1			
8		9		1	2			
	3		5	6		2		
		2	3		7	9		
	9			5	8		2	6
	8					7	3	
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	5	7	1	2	9	3	8
7	8	9	6	3	4	1	5	2
2	3	1	8	5	9	6	7	4
4	5	3	2	9	7	8	6	1
1	2	7	5	8	6	3	4	9
8	9	6	3	4	1	5	2	7
9	6	8	4	7	3	2	1	5
3	1	4	9	2	5	7	8	6
5	7	2	1	6	8	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

YO-YOS Solution: 10 letters

V	P	C	W	R	I	S	T	G	N	I	D	N	I	B
N	I	S	K	C	I	R	T	P	U	N	W	I	N	D
O	H	N	I	I	E	R	D	B	U	R	C	P	S	T
I	W	R	T	P	I	G	A	O	U	N	I	S	H	H
S	O	L	X	A	N	R	R	B	G	K	C	S	A	R
N	R	E	N	I	G	A	R	O	S	B	E	H	P	O
E	O	G	D	A	N	E	D	Y	D	R	I	F	E	W
T	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	Ⓤ	Ⓟ	A	E	L	F	O	N	O	T	I	S
E	O	X	E	K	H	F	R	L	O	U	U	D	E	R
F	C	N	A	T	R	E	F	D	N	R	E	O	D	E
G	L	W	K	E	E	O	N	T	L	L	C	E	W	G
T	A	L	T	H	R	P	A	I	G	I	P	E	R	N
Y	A	T	A	D	O	I	M	N	W	O	H	I	A	I
W	U	N	E	B	N	L	A	O	O	T	N	C	P	F
B	D	P	E	S	S	T	D	L	C	D	L	R	O	W

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Around, Axle, Ball, Binding, Breakaway, Butterfly, Children, Color, Compete, Dog Bite, Expert, Finger, Folding, Force, Fountain, Freehand, Gates, Grab, Grind, Hold, Iron, Knot, Looped, Pedro Flores, Pull, Punches, Shape, Skip, Spin, Tangle, Tension, Throw, Triangle, Tricks, Twine, Unwind, Vintage, Walk the Dog, Whip, Wide, World, Wound, Wrap, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: Jackson Five

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

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CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Male, age 41, Chinese, HS graduate, simple communication in English, hard-working, have been driving buses and tractors for more than a decade, able to do work as driver, waiter, security, general maintenance or laborer. **Tel. 287-6686.**

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2 WAITER/WAITRESS

- Must be a U.S. Citizen (fluent in English)
- Must be 21 yrs. old & above
- High school graduate

Walk-in applicants only, with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline: June 22, 2012

Country House Restaurant

GARAGE SALE

FINAL SALE
MANY DISCOUNT ITEMS TO SELL!

WHEN: Saturday, June 16, 2012
TIME: 8:00am
LOCATION: Red and white house on the hill behind the Big Blue water tank, in Papago at the intersection of Isa Drive and Mulberry Lane. House is located between Santos Acres and San Vicente Post Office. Signs will be posted for guide.

Call 483-5324 for directions.

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DANCERS

Qualifications: High school graduate. A minimum of five years of work-related skill, knowledge or experience. Willing to work late hours.

Duties: Perform in musical productions. Present folk, ethnic, tap, jazz or other popular kinds of dance. May perform as part of a group or solo. Perform other related duties that may be assigned.

Applications may be submitted to Joon Corp. dba King's Club at Garapan, Saipan or email cross_road_44@hotmail.com, Tel. No. 233-0353 or 483-5382
All applications must be accompanied by a current resume.

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Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
Calvin and Hobbes
Garfield
The Duplex
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Durant, James ready to rumble in NBA Finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) LeBron James is quickly racking up MVP awards while Kevin Durant is collecting scoring titles at the same pace.

Either could make a case as the best player in the NBA.

Neither is interested in anything beyond team accomplishments.

One of them is about to get the only crown he craves, their head-to-head duel the leading story line of the NBA finals that begin Tuesday night when Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder host James and the Miami Heat.

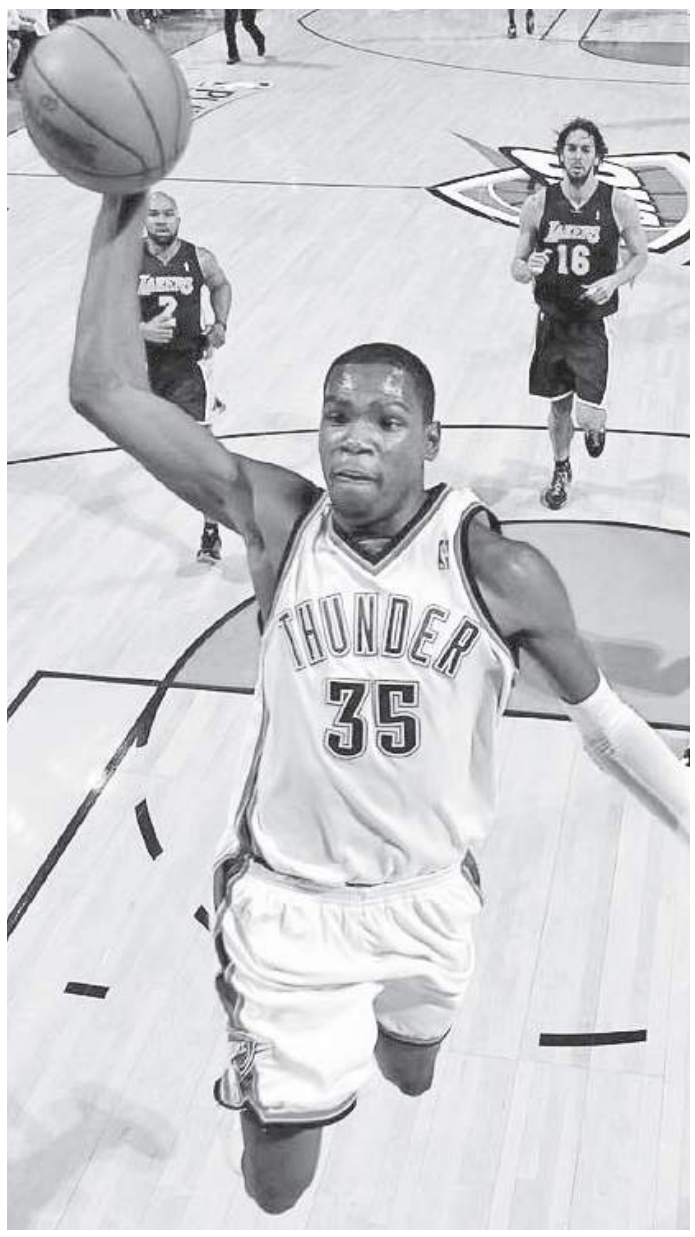
''I think it's going to be a great matchup,'' Miami's Dwyane Wade said Monday. ''I think it's going to be two players that's going to be tough to guard each other, that's going to have to guard each other.''

Both insist the series is more than an individual matchup and the All-Star talent around them supports the claim. But the focus will be on James, the three-time MVP in his third shot at a championship, and Durant, the three-time scoring champion who is playing for his first at age 23.

It's the first time the MVP and scoring champ have met in the finals since 1997, when Michael Jordan's Bulls knocked off MVP Karl Malone and Utah.

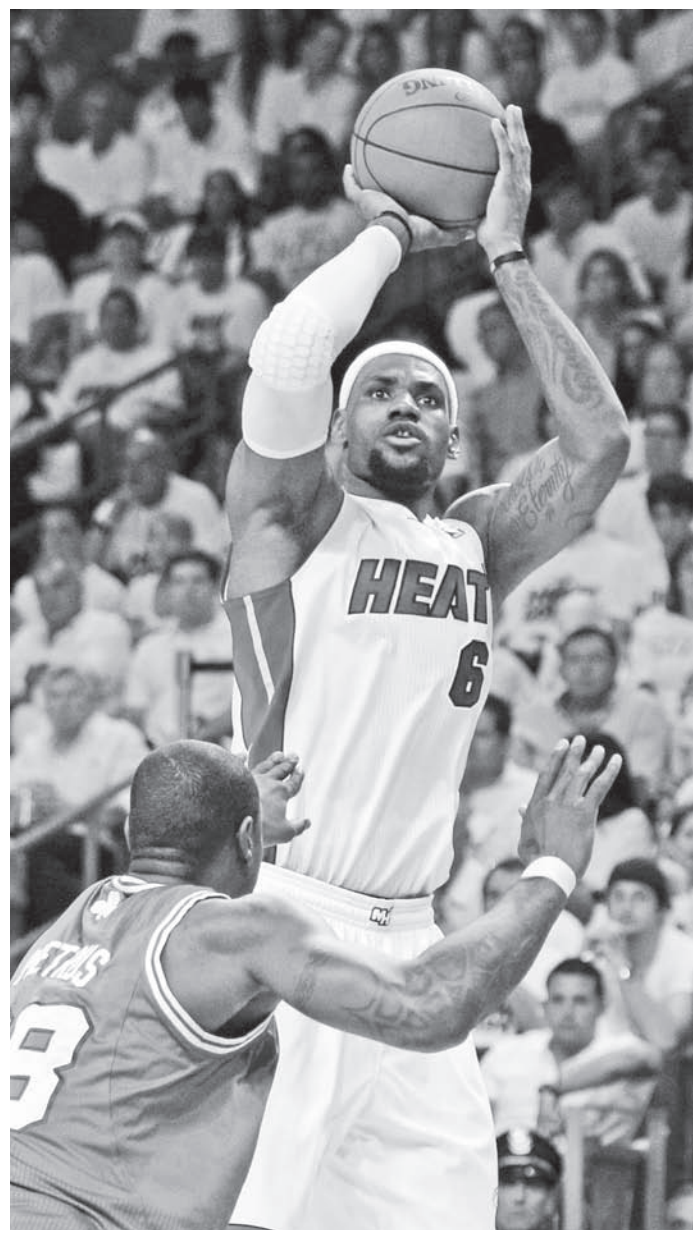
"Everybody is going to make the most out of the matchup of me versus LeBron, but it's the Thunder versus the Heat," Durant said. "One guy versus another guy, it's not going to be a 1-on-1 matchup to win the series, it's going to be all about the team."

They are friends and workout partners, play the same small forward position and are blessed with unlimited basketball talent. After years of waiting on a James-Kobe Bryant finals matchup that never materialized, the league gets one that's perhaps even better, if not quite as sexy, to wrap up a successful season after the lockout.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) goes up for a dunk against the Los Angeles Lakers in the fourth quarter in Game 2 of an NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference semifinal, in Oklahoma City on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots over Boston Celtics' Mickael Pietrus (28), of France, during the first half of Game 5 in their NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoffs series, Tuesday, June 5, 2012, in Miami.

"It's great for the NBA," Miami's Shane Battier said. "I anticipate record ratings, which is great, so maybe we can get some of the escrow check back from the owners. First and foremost, that's why I'm excited to see Kevin Durant versus LeBron James. But selfish reasons aside, it's just a great matchup.

"There's so many young, great players in this league and established players and All-Stars. If you're a basketball fan, you're missing out if you're not watching this series."

Both have sworn off Twitter, at least for the time being, James posted his last message on April 27 and Durant on May 1.

For now, KingJames and KDTrey5 will stick to making their statements on the court.

"Kevin is locked in on what he needs to do to help the team win," Thunder All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook said. "It's going to be a great series for both teams and hopefully we can come out with the win."

James is back for a third crack at his first championship, his Cleveland Cavaliers swept aside by San Antonio in 2007 just a couple of weeks before Durant was drafted by the then-Seattle SuperSonics with the No. 2 pick in the draft.

James fell short again last year in his first season with Miami, then carried the Heat to another chance with victories in the final two games of the Eastern Conference finals against the Celtics, starting with a sensational, 45-point, 15-rebound Game 6 performance in Boston.

"You know, third time in the finals in nine years, there's a lot of guys who don't get there once," Wade said. "Of course, that right there in itself is an honor. But you want to win one. You want to get there and win one. Obviously, LeBron wants to win a championship. I can't say that he wants to win more than the next man, than anybody on OKC. I can't say that. But obviously he wants to win and get another opportunity. I'm sure he will try to seize it a little bit better than he did the first two times."

A disappointment last year in the Heat's six-game loss to Dallas, James has said he's been in a better frame of mind this season and is looking forward making up for his previous failure.

"I didn't play well. I didn't make enough game-changing plays that I know I'm capable of making and I felt like I let my teammates down," he said.

"I'm happy and I'm humbled that I can actually be back in this position less than 12 months later to do a better job of making more plays, more game-changing plays out on the floor on a bigger stage. So we'll see what happens."

Though their core of Durant, Westbrook, sixth man of the year James Harden and Serge Ibaka are all 23 or younger, the Thunder enter as the favorites in their first finals appearance since moving to Oklahoma City from Seattle in 2008.

With signs backing the Thunder hanging from buildings throughout the city, Oklahoma City has watched Durant grow up from the player who arrived here as the rookie of the year. He received some guidance along the way from James, who reached out to him as a high school and then invited him to his home in Akron, Ohio, to work out last summer.

"For me, I understood what the situation he was getting himself into being drafted as high he was, and the things that came with being drafted to a team that needed a marquee player or superstar," James said. "You know, from Day One I always lent my hand out to guide him if he needed it through anything, and that's on and off the floor, because to that point I seen everything, and I'm still learning but I've seen everyone on and off the floor.

''Our relationship is really good. Our relationship is going to continue to grow and I'm happy to be in this position where I can compete against him.''

Only one can be considered the best player in the game, and it's probably the guy who walks out of this series as a champion.

"I think it's going to bring the best out of both of them, and it's going to be the best for the game," Wade said, "and it's going to be a great show.'

Heisley announces agreement to sell Grizzlies

MEMPHIS (AP)—Majority owner Michael Heisley has been trying to sell his Memphis Grizzlies for years to just the right person, and the Illinois billionaire finally found his buyer.

Robert J. Pera, a 34-year-old billionaire from California.

Heisley said Monday he has an agreement to sell his NBA team to a group headed by Pera. Heisley made the announcement less than a couple hours after published reports of a deal selling the team he moved from Vancouver to Memphis in 2001.

"I am confident that the franchise will continue its development toward being a perennial championship contender and an important member of the Memphis community," the 75-year-old Heisley said in a statement. "I am particularly gratified that we have put together a team which is poised to continue its development. We have an outstanding team of players, coaching staff and basketball and business management."

The sale is subject to approval by the NBA Board of Governors and other conditions.

Heisley had a deal in 2006 with a group headed by Christian Laettner that fell through in January 2007 when they failed to line up financing the $252 million to buy his majority share. Heisley had been talking to Oracle founder Larry Ellison earlier this year about a possible sale before backing off, saying he didn't want to sell to someone who would relocate the team.

ESPN.com reported the sale would be for approximately $350 million.

Pera is a former Apple engineer who left in 2005 to start Ubiquiti Networks, a communications technology company that makes WiFi networking equipment. He became a billionaire in October 2011 when his company went public with a fortune estimated at $1.5 billion in March. A stock dip earlier this month has left the man described as a big basketball fan who loves to play the game worth an estimated $980 million

"I am excited about the opportunity to build on the work that has made the Memphis Grizzlies a highly competitive NBA team," Pera said in a statement. "I look forward to getting to know the Memphis community and to continuing the team's success in Memphis."

Heisley bought the then-expansion Grizzlies in 2000 and moved the team to Memphis in 2001. He lured Jerry West to Memphis as the Grizzlies' president of basketball operations in 2002, a job he held for five seasons.

The Grizzlies moved into the FedExForum for the 2004-2005 season during a string of three straight postseason appearances, but they set the NBA record for futility losing their first 12 playoff games.

Heisley was heavily criticized for a February 2008 trade that sent Memphis' only All-Star and all-time leading scorer, Pau Gasol, to the Lakers. But the trade landed Marc Gasol, who was named an All-Star this season. The Grizzlies won only 22, 22 and 24 games in three straight seasons before a rebuilding program resulted in playoff berths the past two seasons.

The timing to sell couldn't be much better.

The Grizzlies went 41-25 this season and reached the playoffs a second straight year, selling out each home game. They took Oklahoma City to seven games in the second round in 2011 and lost to the Los Angeles Clippers in seven games in the first round last month after blowing a 27-point lead in the opener.

The team's lease at the FedExForum would make it very costly to leave before 2021. Rudy Gay, Zach Randolph, Gasol and Mike Conley—four of five starters—are under contract for at least the next three seasons.

LA Kings beat Devils to claim 1st Stanley Cup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hooray for Hockeywood.

The Los Angeles Kings' 45-year quest for an NHL title ended Monday night with an early flurry of power-play goals, followed by two periods of unbearable anticipation - right up to the moment when Dustin Brown snatched the Stanley Cup from Commissioner Gary Bettman.

Brown skated to center ice and thrust the 36-pound silver trophy skyward, the captain never flinching under the weight. Long-suffering L.A. fans, who had never even seen hockey's greatest prize, went crazy.

The Kings are NHL champions for the first time, and all the men in black played a role in this Tinseltown blockbuster.

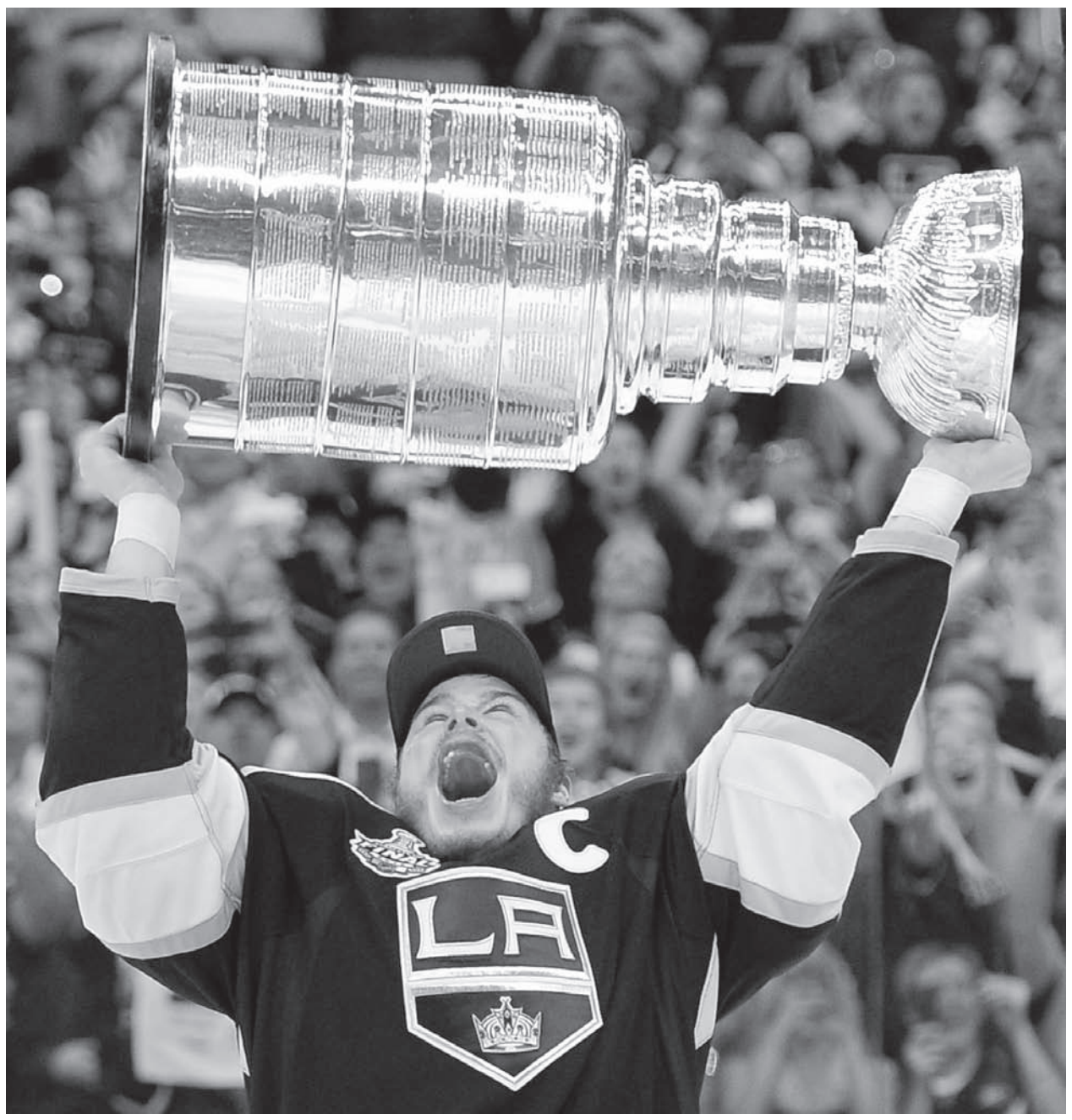
Jeff Carter and Trevor Lewis scored two goals apiece, playoff MVP Jonathan Quick made 17 saves in his latest stellar performance, and the Kings beat the New Jersey Devils 6-1 in Game 6 of the finals, becoming the first eighth-seeded playoff team to win the league title.

Brown had a goal and two assists for Los Angeles, which ended its spectacular 16-4 postseason run in front of a crowd including several dozen Kings faithful who have been at rinkside since the team's birth as an expansion franchise in 1967. Every other year ended unhappily.

"Every single guy worked so hard for us this season," said defenseman Drew Doughty, who began the year as a contract holdout and finished with six points in the finals, including two assists in the clincher. "Everyone deserves this. We got used to each other, we developed a chemistry, and we just went sailing from there."

After taking a 3-0 series lead and then losing two potential clinching games last week, the Kings finished ferociously at Staples Center just when the sixth-seeded Devils appeared to have a chance for one of the biggest comebacks in finals history.

One penalty abruptly changed the tone of the series. Brown, Carter and Lewis scored during a five-minute power play in the first period after Steve Bernier was ejected for boarding Rob Scuderi, leaving the veteran defenseman in a pool of blood. Quick took it from there, finishing a star-making two months by allowing just seven goals in six finals games.



AP

Los Angeles Kings captain Dustin Brown hoists the Stanley Cup after the Kings beat the New Jersey Devils, 6-1, during Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup finals, Monday, June 11, 2012, in Los Angeles.

"You never know. You get to the dance, you never know what's going to happen," Brown said. "We calmed down after losing two. It was the first time we had done that all playoffs, and we finally got off to a good start."

Martin Brodeur stopped 19 shots for the Eastern Conference champion Devils, just the third team to force a Game 6 in the finals after falling into an 0-3 hole. Rookie Adam Henrique ended Quick's shutout bid late in the second period after the Kings had built a 4-0 lead, but Lewis and Matt Greene added late goals for the Kings.

"We never lost our confidence," Quick said. "We had to take it on the chin to keep moving, losing two, and we looked at it as, `Hey, we still have to win one game to win a championship. And we have two chances.' Finally, we were able to do it at home."

The Kings steamrolled everyone in their path after barely making the playoffs, eliminating the top three seeds in the Western Conference in overwhelming fashion as they matched the second-fastest run to a title in modern NHL history. Although the Devils gave them a little trouble, the Kings boasted a talented, balanced roster that peaked at the absolute perfect time under midseason coaching hire Darryl Sutter.

Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy, adding one more dominant game to a run in which he set NHL records for save percentage (.946) and goals-against average (1.41) among goalies who played at least 15 postseason games. Brown capped his own impressive playoff work by finishing with 20 points, tied for the postseason scoring lead with linemate Anze Kopitar.

And Brown, just the second American-born captain to raise the Cup after Dallas' Derian Hatcher, accomplished what even Wayne Gretzky couldn't do in eight years in Los Angeles.

Brown handed off the trophy to Willie Mitchell, the 35-year-old defenseman who had never won a title. Mitchell gave it to long-injured and recently returned forward Simon Gagne, who nearly tripped before raising the Cup for the first time.

Sutter, the stone-faced Alberta farmer from a family of hockey-playing brothers, smiled like a kid at his first chance to lift the prize, and general manager Dean Lombardi even took a turn after declining it twice. Later, Justin Williams sat his crying daughter in the Cup, and Kopitar raised it while wearing a gold crown on his head.

After going on a 12-2 tear to the Western Conference title, the Kings won the first two games of the finals in overtime by identical 2-1 scores in New Jersey, leading many to assume another one-sided series victory was upcoming. Los Angeles then flattened the Devils 4-0 in Game 3, but missed its first chance to clinch on home ice when Henrique scored the tiebreaking goal with 4 1/2 minutes left in New Jersey's 3-1 win in Game 4.

The Devils then beat Los Angeles 2-1 in Game 5, earning another cross-country trip after becoming the third team in NHL history, and the first since 1945, to win twice after falling behind 0-3 in the finals.

"You don't give yourself a lot of room for error, finding yourselves in a pretty deep hole," Devils captain Zach Parise said. "It's hard, but we really felt like could get back in this and force a Game 7. We did give our best, but we just came up a bit short, unfortunately."

The Kings were the West's bottom seed after failing to clinch a playoff berth until right before their 81st game, but only because they underachieved for much of the season. Their talent finally came together under Sutter, who replaced the fired Terry Murray shortly before Christmas and turned Los Angeles into a contender by late February.

Five years after the Anaheim Ducks won California's first Stanley Cup, the Golden State's oldest team raised the second. The Kings also are the first team to win the Cup at home since those Ducks, and their fans appreciated the Hollywood touch.

Yankees blank Braves to regain lead

ATLANTA (AP) Ivan Nova said he didn't have his best stuff, yet he was a big hit - even at the plate - in leading the New York Yankees back into first place.

Nova combined with four relievers on a five-hitter and the Yankees beat the Atlanta Braves 3-0 on Monday night to claim a share of first place in the AL East for the first time in seven weeks.

''Who would have thought it?'' Yankees manager Joe Girardi asked. ''I think there's a lot of parity in the American League this year and I think there are a lot of good teams who are going to beat up on each other.

''Our guys have done a good job of enduring some things. We've had some key injuries and we've been able to figure things out a little bit. Guys have stepped up and we just have to keep going.''

Raul Ibanez led off the second inning with a homer and Robinson Cano had two hits, including a run-scoring single in the first. The surging Yankees climbed into a tie with idle Tampa Bay for the division lead, their first return to first place since April 24.

Nova (8-2) gave up five hits with one walk and six strikeouts in seven innings for his fourth straight win.

''Our starting pitching has been really good, and that's how you put streaks together,'' Girardi said.

The Braves didn't have a baserunner reach third base, but Nova said his command was inconsistent.

''I don't have my best stuff today, but I made pitches when I needed it,'' Nova said.

''My command of the fastball wasn't there. Sometimes I wanted to go inside on lefties and I left the ball over the plate. ... When you don't have your best stuff, you have to fight.''

Nova added a milestone with a second-inning single for his first career hit. He said the ball from his first hit will earn a place of honor beside souvenirs from his first win and first strikeout.

Nationals 6, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Brandon Morrow's abbreviated start could turn out to be an extended problem for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Morrow left after just nine pitches with a strained muscle in his left side and the Blue Jays lost 6-3 to the Washington Nationals on Monday, their fourth defeat in five games.

Morrow had won three of four starts coming in, a stretch in which he'd also thrown two shutouts, but was gone before an out was recorded in this one.

After giving up a leadoff double to Steve Lombardozzi, Morrow (7-4) motioned for the trainer after missing low on a 1-1 pitch to Bryce Harper, the second hitter of the game.

"I felt it on the first pitch to Harper," Morrow said. "I felt like a stabbing in my side when I threw it."

Marlins 4, Red Sox 1

In Miami, balmy sea breeze is just what the Miami Marlins needed to snap their slump and beat Josh Beckett.

Some heat from Josh Johnson helped, too.

Desperate for a turnaround, the Marlins opened their retractable roof for the first time in nearly two months Monday night, took to the outdoor setting and snapped a six-game losing streak with a 4-1 win over Beckett and the Boston Red Sox.

Johnson outpitched his former teammate, and rookie Donovan Solano drove in two runs as the Marlins improved to 1-6 on their homestand. They're 3-2 with the roof of their new ballpark open.

The Red Sox, last in the AL East, lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Angels 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Albert Pujols had a tiebreaking single with two outs in the top of the ninth inning off Kenley Jansen, lifting the Los Angeles Angels to 3-2 victory over the Dodgers on Monday night.

The Angels rallied from an early 2-0 deficit. Mike Trout had an RBI single in the fourth and a homer in the sixth to tie it. He then scored the go-ahead run from second base on Pujols' broken-bat hit.

Jason Isringhausen (2-0), one of four Angels relievers, got one out for the win. Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Jansen (4-1) pitched one inning for the Dodgers.

NADAL

From Page 28

games played after the restart to close out a 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 victory over Djokovic, cementing his name in the history books with a record seventh French Open title, one more than Bjorn Borg. Nadal also prevented Djokovic from becoming the first man since 1969 to win four straight majors, the same way Roger Federer got denied in 2006 and 2007.

Also against Nadal. Also on the clay.

"My mental part, probably, on clay is one of the most important things," Nadal said. "Because you have to run, you have to suffer sometimes, you have to play with more tactics, because you have more time to think, to do things."

The end of this one played out the way seven of the last eight of them have at Roland Garros: Nadal sliding through the gritty court, reaching for balls nobody else could think of getting, punishing his opponent and pressuring him into "unforced errors" that were really no such thing. Djokovic had 15 during the fourth set.

It was quite a different scene from the evening before, when rain turned the court into a sheet of near-mud, the tennis balls got saturated and every advantage belonged to Djokovic. He ran off eight straight games - who does that against Rafa on clay? - and Nadal was scowling, arguing with the umpires, asking to have the match suspended because Roland Garros was playing more like an unkempt public court after a storm than one of tennis' hallowed grounds on an historically important day.

The decision to stop, and not to resume later Sunday when the rain stopped and there was still light available, might have been the turning point in the match.

"I said, `Good, we got lucky. If we hadn't stopped, we were going home,'" said Nadal's uncle and coach, Toni Nadal.

Djokovic thought the same: "It's unfortunate," he said, "because I think I was playing better and I was feeling really well on the court."

Djokovic needed one more win to join Don Budge and Rod Laver as the only men to win four straight major titles. Instead, he fell to 0-4 against Nadal at the French Open. He saw the task that lies ahead but also appreciated what he'd done.

"These matches make you feel like all the work that you put into it is worth it," he said. "You're living for this moment to play finals of any Grand Slam, and sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

After the win, the conversation quickly turned to whether Nadal is now the greatest clay court player ever. Nadal himself doesn't like getting drawn into the "greatest this," "greatest that" discussion. "I'm not the right one to say that," he said.

Others certainly will.

"Well, he has to be now," said Mats Wilander, who won here three times and presented the trophy to Nadal. "I mean, you can never compare eras. But, yeah, I think the players that he's up against are better on clay. They're more consistent than the ones Borg was up against. Playing Roger Federer in a bunch of finals. Now Novak, No. 1 in the world. Yes, yes, absolutely. The seven here makes a big difference."

Those seven go along with eight at Monte Carlo, seven at Barcelona, six at Rome and an overall 254-19 record on the surface.

But while the numbers get gaudier, the tennis world moves on - to the grass at Wimbledon, which is where Djokovic started his string of three straight Grand Slam wins last year, beating Nadal in all three finals.

CNMI

From Page 28

wa, 6-2, 6-2, and Guam's Emmanuelle Haurillon, 6-0, 6-0.

In the boys U18 draw, Miller also went 2-0 in the Pool A, blanking Guam's Juancho Solivio in his first game, 6-0, 6-0, and downing Victor Tuncap in the second, 6-3, 6-3. Also sweeping his Guam foes was Jones, who defeated Erwin Soto, 6-1, 6-2, and Bryan Esau, 6-1 (retired).

5-of-7 in U15

In the U15 division, the Commonwealth bets were undefeated in the girls play with Emily Jones and Negaht Rastguiy topping Guam's Angelysa Ulloa, 6-1, 6-1, and FSM' s Margaret Finnen, 6-2, 6-3, respectively.

In the boys division, Race's wards won five opening matches and dropped only two, with one featuring an all-CNMI duel.

Moris Villanueva prevailed in his Pool A match against FSM's Jake Panuelo, 6-1, 6-0, while Seiya Eda defeated teammate Colin Ramsey in Pool B, 6-2, 6-4.

In Pool C, the CNMI had a split with Tommy Choi thwarting FSM's David Panuelo, 6-2, 6-2, and Dylan Ackerman bowing to Guam's David Okuhama, 2-6, 4-6. In Pool C, top seed Cris Cajigan shut out Guam's David John, 6-0, 6-0.

Domination in U12

The CNMI bets won one game after another in the U12 division.

In Pool A, Carol Lee was 2-0, while Mimi Sakano, and Elizaveta Atalig were also victorious in the opening day. Lee beat teammate Malika Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-2, and Grace Choi, 6-0, 6-0. Sakano edged Miyawaki, 7-5, 7-5, while Atalig sliped past Guam's Laurel Hughes, 6-3, 7-5.

In Pool B, Tsukagoshi won over FSM's Sunshein Palik, 6-3, 7-6 (6), and Palau's Dilluna Rivera, 6-0, 6-1. Heras also earned a 2-0 record in Day 1 after prevailing over Ishikawa, 6-1, 6-2, and Guam's Kanasta Abrams, 6-0, 6-2.

In the boys division, Ren and Tudela were perfect in the opening day. Ren blanked Guam's Tatsuya Cepeda, 6-0, 6-0, and topped FSM's William Joab, 6-0, 6-1, in Pool A. In Pool B, Tudela survived Palau's Samuel Nilasca, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, and teammate Ken Song, 6-2, 7-6.

In Pool C, Luther Lizama was clean in the opening day, winning over teammate Robert Schorr, 6-0, 6-1, and against Guam's Gabriel Basco, 6-1, 6-1. Schorr bounced back from a loss to Lizama with a 6-1, 7-5 triumph over Guam's Andrew Leng. In Pool D, Michael Jones also had a split, edging Guam's Aaron Abrams, 6-2, 6-3, before losing to Palau's Ubai Kingzio, 3-6, 0-6.

The CNMI bets are competing in the NPQ for slots on the North Pacific Team that will play in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in August in Fiji.

AD-31

From Page 28

two-game losing skid and improved its record to 2-3, while LD Prime dropped to a 1-2 slate after the fourth-quarter collapse.

AD-31 outgunned LD Prime, 20-7, in the last 3:48 of the game to nail the 11-point win. LD Prime was stuck to 56 points for about three minutes, committed several turnovers, and took too many outside shots before converting two late field goals that were already useless, as AD-31 was headed for the victory.

David Magtuloy committed one of those costly errors in the homestretch when he was called for a technical foul after shouting from the backcourt with AD-21 Lester Vertudez breaking away for a fastbreak layup.

Vertudez converted the layup to tie the game, 56-all, and then put AD-31 in the lead when he made the two technical free throws. AD-31 kept possession and Jimmy Floreindo added a free throw to widen the gap, 59-56, with less than three minutes left on the clock.

LD Prime either turned the ball over or muffed jumpers in the ensuing plays, while AD-31 drew six straight points from Rodney Sacramento on fastbreak baskets to stretch the lead. Two more fastbreak conversions, one each from Vertudez and Buboy Sablan put the final nail on LD Prime's coffin, as AD-31 worked out a 69-56 advantage, entering the final minute of the fourth.

Sacramento led all scorers with 25 points, while Vertudez chipped in 15.

Magtuloy and Nat Banatasa paced with 15 markers apiece.

Fastbreakers 93, Sinigang 89

In the second game, the Fastbreakers also played steady in the homestretch to foil Sinigang's upset bid.

Sinigang led, 71-60, after three quarters, but the Fastbreakers regrouped in the payoff canto to escape with the fourth-point win and keep their perfect record (5-0).

The Fastbreakers caught up with Sinigang in the last two minutes of the game and completed the come-from-behind victory with Niko Salem scoring 5 of the team's last 7 points.

Salem finished with 23 points to back up Melvin Cadiang, who nailed a game-high 25 markers.

Michael Moran had 21 for Sinigang (1-2), while Prince Factor tallied 20, making 10 of them in the third to give their team a double-digit lead.

However, Factor and company folded up in the end after failing to neutralize Salem and Cadiang in the fourth canto. The duo combined for 21 of Fastbreakers' 33 points in the fourth quarter.

First Game

AD-31 74 – Sacramento 25, Vertudez 23, Floreindo 6, Culala 5, Sablan 4, Lavarias 3, Anasa 2, Tenorio 1.

LD Prime 63 – Magtuloy 15, Banatasa 15, Jugos 11, Hernaez 9, J. Quemado 7, Espinosa 2, Perez 2, Pena 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-12, 32-27, 49-46, 74-63.

Second Game

Fastbreakers 93 – Cadiang 25, Salem 23, Saturno 11, Taylor 10, Palacios 9, Pelegrino 8, Mangana 7.

Sinigang 89 – Moran 21, Factor 20, Ano 14, Macahito 10, Gotengco 8, Jeri. Habijan 5, Lapuz 3, Madreo 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 46-46, 60-71, 93-89.

PROA

From Page 28

Kobe Mendoza nailed three late buckets to pour some salt in the wound of the young RBC Agape players, who suited up in their first game.

Agape showed signs of developing some team chemistry despite the daunting deficit and managed to improve its output in the second half, but Proa still easily trotted to the winner's circle at the end of regulation.

Mendoza led Proa with his 12 points.

Sixers 47, Rollers 10

In the first game, Nolan Villagomez and Marvin Sablan heated up early to lift the MJC Enterprise Sixers to the easy win.

The duo tallied three buckets apiece as the Sixers led at halftime, 22-4, and continued their domination in the second half. Joseph Fukuichi and Jose Ngeskebei teamed up for 15 points in the second half for the Sixers. Villagomez and Sablan finished with 10 points each.

U25

R-Rebels 40, Saints 31

In the first U15 game last Friday, Ben Lisua scored 10 points and received enough assistance from his teammates to power the R-Rebels to a victory over the Saints.

Lisua and seven other R-Rebels players made it to the scoreboard.

Luizi Reyes top-scored for the Saints with his 14 points, but the rest of his teammates failed to give valuable contribution.

GVH 36, Safety 1st 28

In the second game, Jojo Ulloa fired 10 of his 11 points in the second half to help GVH beat Safety 1st.

The match was tied at midpoint, 15-15, with Dominic Reyes leading GVH and Erick Dela Rosa anchoring Safety 1st offense, scoring 6 and 5 points, respectively.

Then in the second half, Safety 1st's Daryl Suarez scrambled for 9 markers, but Ulloa answered with a pair of three pointers in the closing minutes to lift his crew to the win.

U17

First Game

MJC Ent. Sixers 47 – Sablan 10, N. Villagomez 10, J. Ngeskebei 9, Fukuichi 8, A. Ngeskebei 5, Castro 3, Flores 2.

RBC Rollers B 10 – Cano 5, Francisco 3, Cudia 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-4, 47-10.

Second Game

Proa 50 – Mendoza 12, Aguilar 7, W, Camacho 6, Mizer 6, Smithee 5, Cepeda 4, T. Palacios 4, Capuyon 2, De Leon 2.

RBC Agape 20 – Aldan 14, Allen 2, Amog 2, Warren 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-8, 50-20.

U25

First Game

R-Rebels 40 – Lisua 10, Ogumoro 6, Omar 6, Hambros 5, Litulumar 4, Norita 4, E Camacho 3, Jun 2.

Saints 31 – Lu Reyes 14, LJ Reyes 6, Brennan 3, Namelo 3, Avila 2, Iglesias 2, Galarse 1

Second Game

GVH 36 – Ulloa 11, D. Camacho 7, Ogarto 4, Sablan 4, D. Reyes 4, Quitugua 2.

Safety 1st 28 – Dela Rosa 9, Suarez 9, Dillay 5, Salas 4, Robasto 2.

Scoring by halves: 15-15, 36-28

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	35	25	.583	–
Tampa Bay	35	25	.583	–
Baltimore	34	26	.567	1
Toronto	31	30	.508	4 1/2
Boston	29	32	.475	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	33	27	.550	–
Cleveland	32	27	.542	1/2
Detroit	28	32	.467	5
Kansas City	24	34	.414	8
Minnesota	24	35	.407	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	35	26	.574	–
Los Angeles	33	29	.532	2 1/2
Seattle	27	35	.435	8 1/2
Oakland	26	35	.426	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	36	23	.610	–
Atlanta	34	27	.557	3
Miami	32	29	.525	5
New York	32	29	.525	5
Philadelphia	29	33	.468	8 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	32	27	.542	–
Pittsburgh	32	27	.542	–
St. Louis	31	30	.508	2
Milwaukee	28	32	.467	4 1/2
Houston	26	34	.433	6 1/2
Chicago	20	40	.333	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	39	23	.629	–
San Francisco	34	27	.557	4 1/2
Arizona	30	30	.500	8
Colorado	24	35	.407	13 1/2
San Diego	20	41	.328	18 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

DLX STANDINGS

Bracket A

Mawati	2	0
DLX/Irish Spring	3	1
Team Pogi	3	1
AD-31	2	3
8-Division	1	1
Marianas Water	1	2
LD Prime	1	2
Docomo	0	3

Bracket B

Fastbreakers	5	0
KFC/Taco Bell	3	1
Banahaw	3	1
Sinigang	1	2
San Roque	1	2
R-Lyn's	1	2
Gualo Rai	0	3
Wushin Express	0	4

SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Winners

Photos by WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

MARPAC's Tom Basa addresses the crowd before the winners were announced.

Pacific Amusement's Victor Ryan addresses the crowd before the beginning of the awards ceremony.

From left, Jerry Soriano and Chester Hamoy accept Run the Rack honors for the Agingan division during the awards ceremony for the Saipan Billiards Association 2012 Winter/Summer Budweiser Open 8-Ball League last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

Individual award winners pose for a group photo.

Members of the IT&E Voyagers pose with their regular season first place awards.

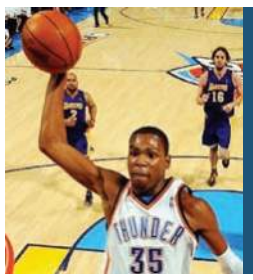
Rose Phillips, right, who accepted the Obyan Most Inspired Player award on behalf of her husband Ken, joins Agingan winner Mark Brian Nelvis and other individual award winners.

Agingan's IT&E Incredibles accepts this year's Budweiser Cup honors.

Miko Usi, left, accepts a special plaque on behalf of Joe's Steakhouse from Pacific Amusement general manager Jim Gebhard.

Obyan division's Erwin Gomez, left, and Rey Pinangay accept their Run the Rack trophies.

Obyan's Rey Pinangay, left, and Agingan's Chester Hamoy receive the division most valuable player awards.



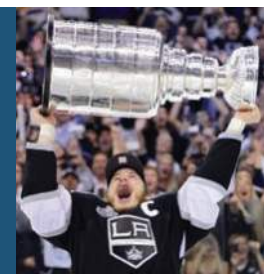
Durant, James ready to rumble in NBA Finals

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

LA Kings beat Devils to claim 1st Stanley Cup

PAGE 25



Nadal notches 7th French Open crown

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal has caused so many others sleepless nights at Roland Garros. This time, though, it was his turn to do the tossing and turning.

The bad weather. The unpredictable bounces. An opponent, Novak Djokovic, who couldn't miss.

It all kept flashing through his mind. And it was compounded by the fact that when he walked back on the court Monday, he would be protecting a slim lead in the fourth set—giving him very little time to get a wobbling game back on the rails.

Turns out, it was a case of losing sleep over nothing.

Nadal won six of the nine

See **NADAL** on **Page 26**

Spain's Rafael Nadal holds the cup after defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in their men's final match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 11, 2012. Nadal passes Bjorn Borg as the all-time record-holder for French Open titles.

AP

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

AD-31's Dexter Tenorio goes for a left handed layup against LD Prime's Angelo Hernaez during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

AD-31 back on track, beats LD Prime

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

AD-31 showed poise in the closing minutes of the second game in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League to down LD Prime, 74-63, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win ended AD-31's

See **AD-31** on **Page 26**

CNMI jr. netters show force early

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team lived up to its lofty billing early after winning more than 30 matches in the opening of the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Tamuning, Guam last Monday.

Sisters Thea and Theecel Minor swept their Day 1 assignments, while Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Carol Lee, Ami Tsukagoshi, Isabel Heras, Michael Ren, and Vincent Tudela were also undefeated in the opening day.

"It was a strong show for our players. They did very well in the opening day, we won 34 matches and lost only a few. I am confident we will continue to play great games," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The Minor sisters were entered in the girls U18 division with Thea in Pool A and winning over Guam's Jillianne Tapei, 6-0, 6-0, and fellow CNMI netter Melody Johnson, 6-2, 6-3. Johnson split her first two games, prevailing over Guam's Pulani Lansing, 6-1, 6-1. Theecel won her Pool B matches against teammate Alina Ishika-

See **CNMI** on **Page 26**

Vincent Tudela, seen here in action in a local tournament early this year, swept his opening games in the U12 division of the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam last Monday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Proa cruises past Rollers Agape in Docomo U17 youth league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Proa breezed past Rollers Basketball Club Agape, 50-20, during their game in the U17 division of the Docomo Pacific Summer Youth Basketball League last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Proa looked in sync early on and sprung out to a comfortable 26-8 advantage at the half.

See **PROA** on **Page 26**

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A RBC Rollers B player tries to drive through the lane against two Proa defenders during their U17 game in the Docomo youth caging last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.